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St. Marys' filmmakers recognized internationally for Cry of Silence

St. Marys' Akoofilm Company's latest film, Cry of Silence, is on a winning streak at film festivals around the world.

Galen Simmons

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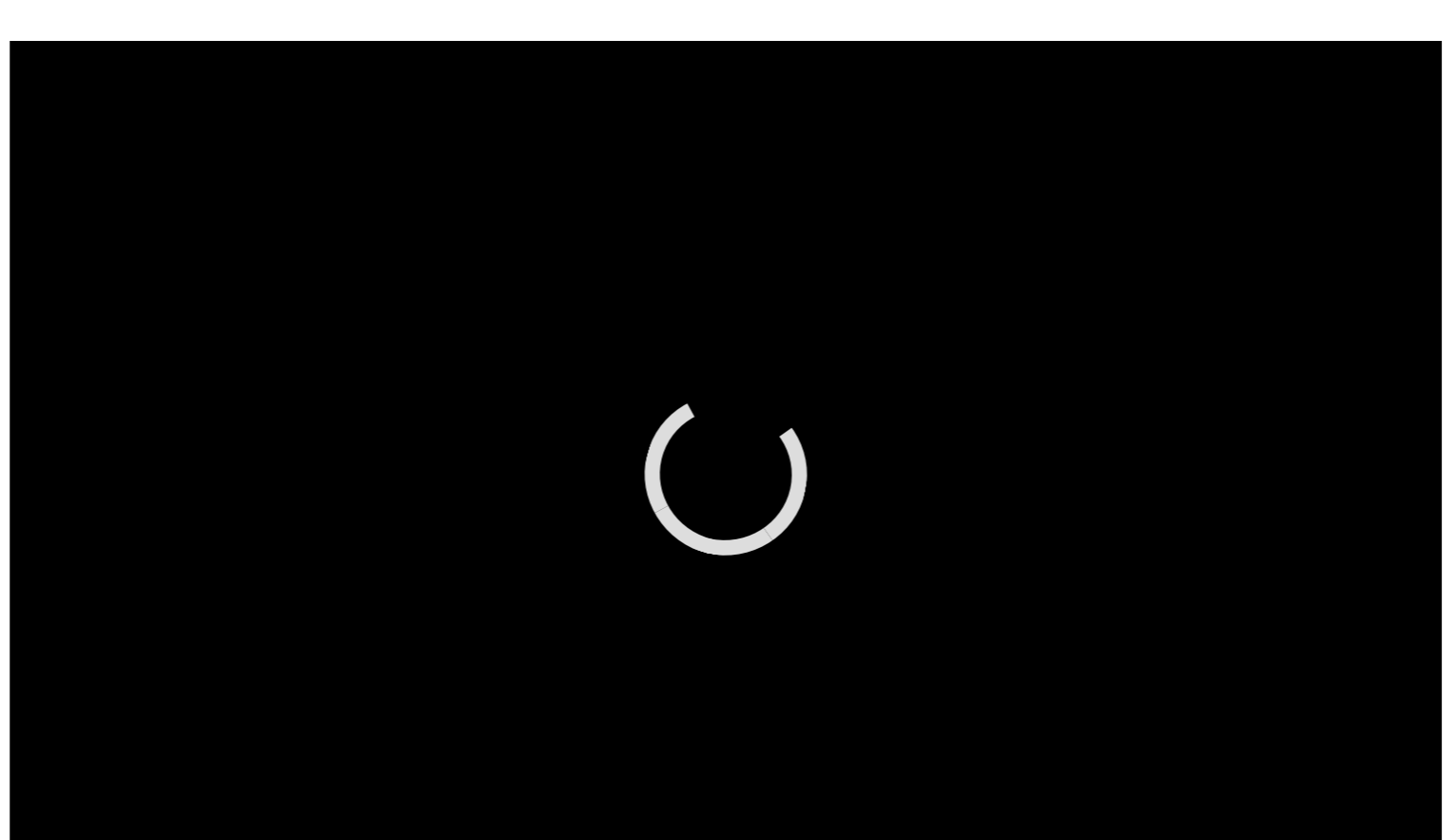


St. Marys' Akoofilm Company's latest film, Cry of Silence, has won roughly 30 different awards at film festivals around the world. Pictured, St. Marys filmmaker Allen Kool directs on the set of Cry of Silence. (Submitted photo)

The cast and crew for the Akoofilm Company's latest film, Cry of Silence, are being recognized for their work at film festivals around the world even before St. Marys-shot action thriller is released to the public.

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For the past several months, St. Marys filmmaker Allen Kool and his team have been hard at work submitting Cry of Silence for consideration at as many international film festivals as they can. So far, the film has won or been nominated for roughly 30 awards at festivals, including the New York Arthouse Film Festival, the Florence Film Awards, the Milan Gold Awards, the London Movie Awards, the Vegas Movie Awards and the Sweet Democracy Film Festival.

"I got best director from New York Arthouse Film Festival and just recently a number of other awards," Kool said. "I got best producer from Vegas Movie Awards and then we got a few best actresses and actor, sound design, casting, screen play. Most of them are best narrative feature and those kinds of awards. ... It seems to be doing really well."

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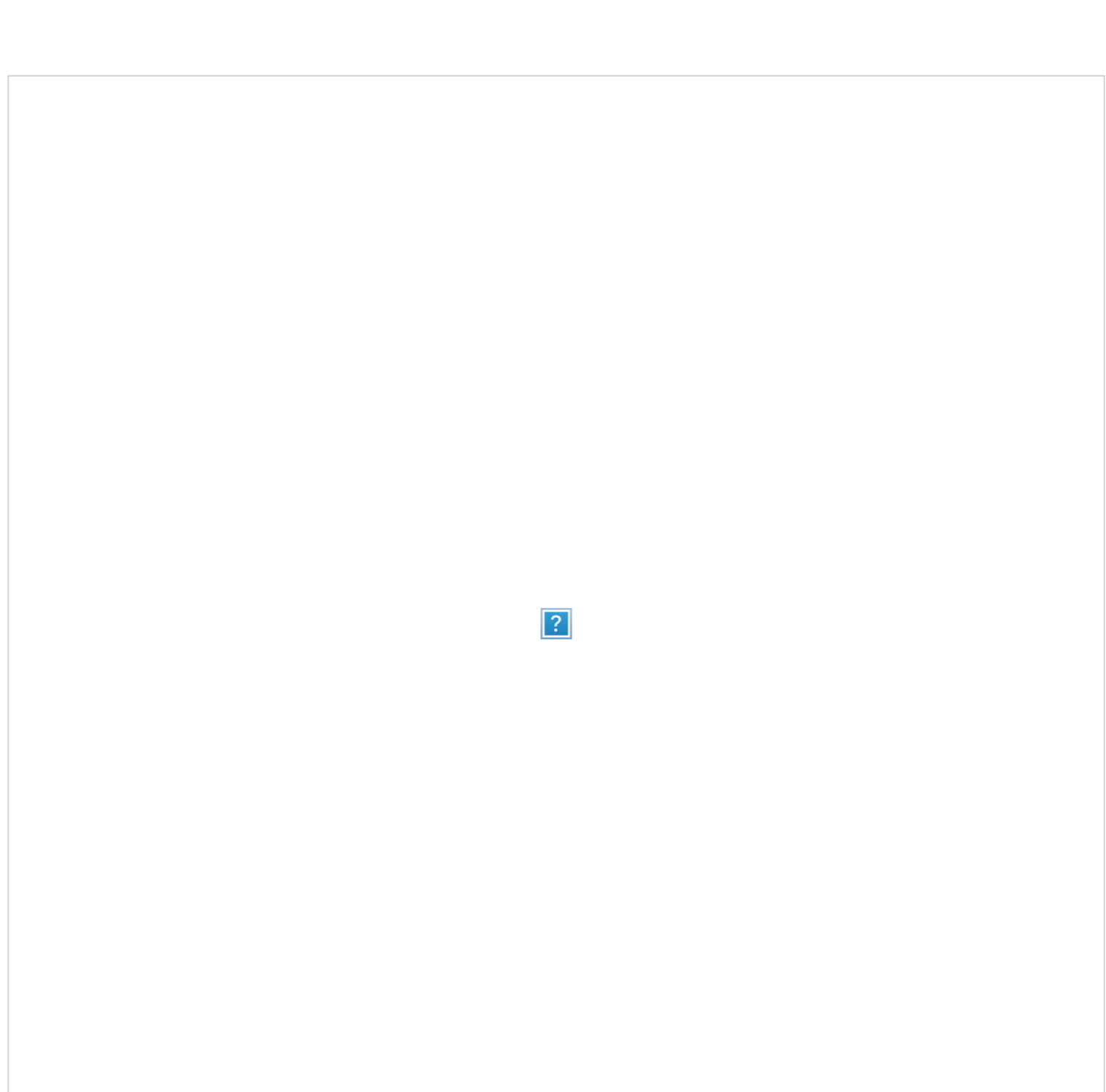
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Kool said he's excited to share this international recognition with his cast and a crew, many of whom are local to St. Marys. Kool's wife and screenwriter, Robin Crozier, was recognized for her work with best screenplay awards at the Hollywood Gold Awards, the International Gold Awards, the London Movie Awards and the Sweet Democracy Film Festival, as well as a nod for best casting director at Sweet Democracy.

The film's leads, Felipe Aukai (Frank) and Charlot Daysh (Maggie), were also recognized for their performances with best actor and actress awards at the Sweet Democracy Film Festival, as well as best actor at the International Gold Awards for Aukai, and best actress at the CineGlobal Film Festival for Daysh.

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Akoofilm Company's latest film, Cry of Silence, is expected to premiere in Stratford and elsewhere later this summer or in early fall. Submitted image

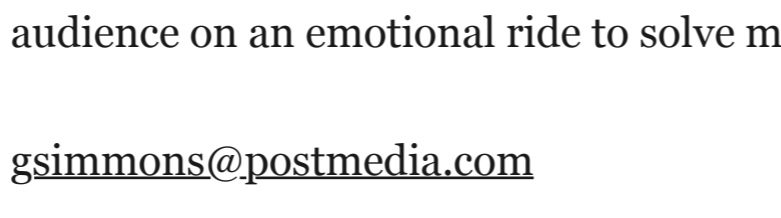
"We moved our company when Robin and I moved to St. Marys four years ago and we started making movies here. ... The first movie we made, The Sanctuary, was extremely well received with accolades and was nominated for three Canadian Screen Awards and the second movie, The Taste of Blood, which we shot here totally in St. Marys at the Westover Inn, was nominated for Canadian Screen Awards. I think both of those movies took in something like 150 international awards combined. Now we're up to about 30 on this one and we haven't even released it yet," Kool said.

"It goes to show what we can do living in a small community. We got a tremendous amount of support, not only from St. Marys but from people in the Stratford area too. The next movie's going to be even bigger and better, and we're going to have major international A-listers and B-listers as talent. So yeah, it feels really awesome for an old guy like me."

While Kool is still in negotiations with some major film distributors, he said he expects to host premieres of Cry of Silence at both the Stratford Cinemas – to recognize all the hard work that went into the film by locals – and in Toronto at some point later this summer or early fall.

Cry of Silence tells the story of Maggie and Frank, a young married couple deeply in love who settle into their new life together in a community terrorized by a serial killer. Throughout the story, Det. Forbes (Jim Monaco) takes the audience on an emotional ride to solve multiple murders.

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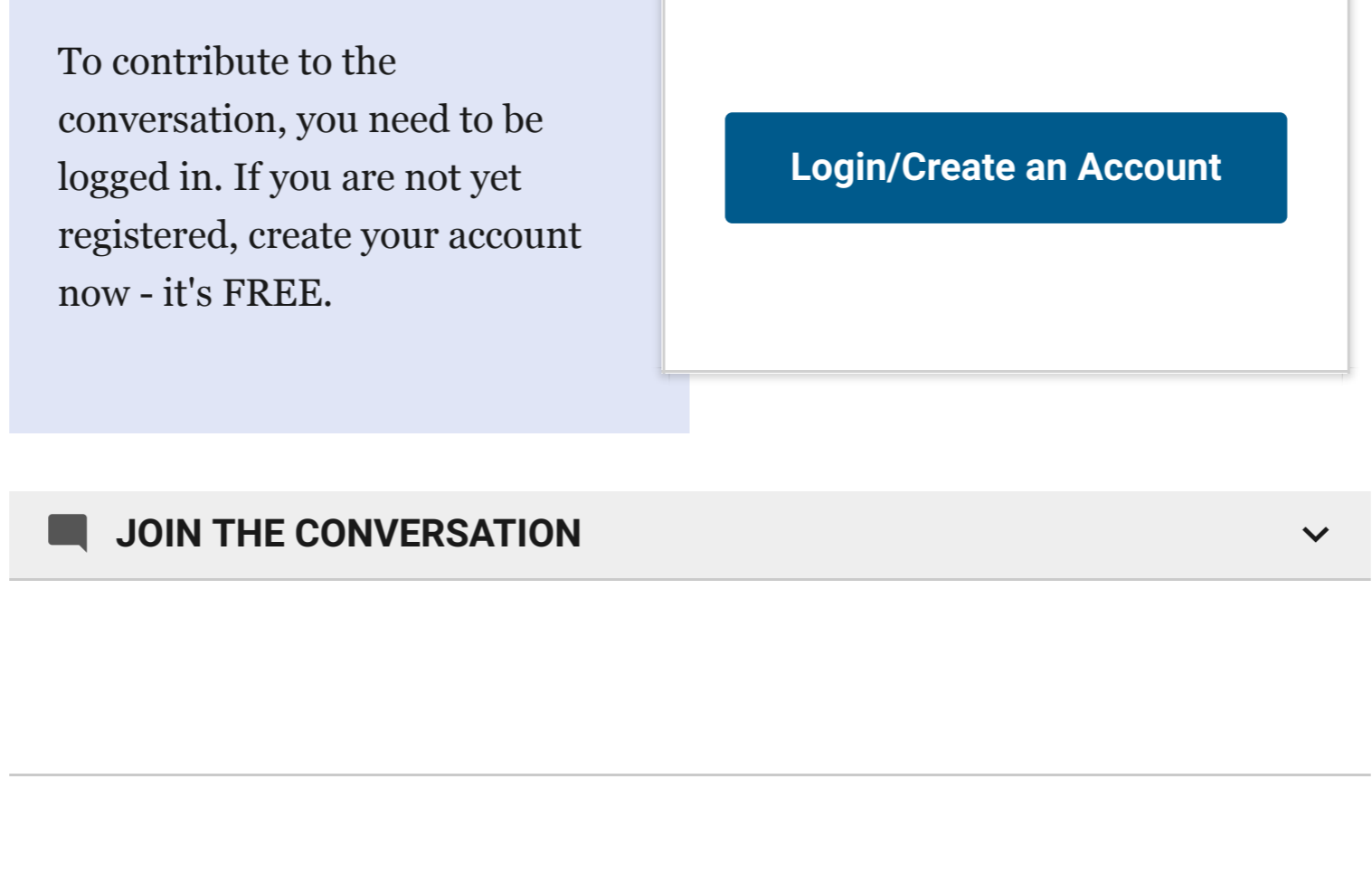
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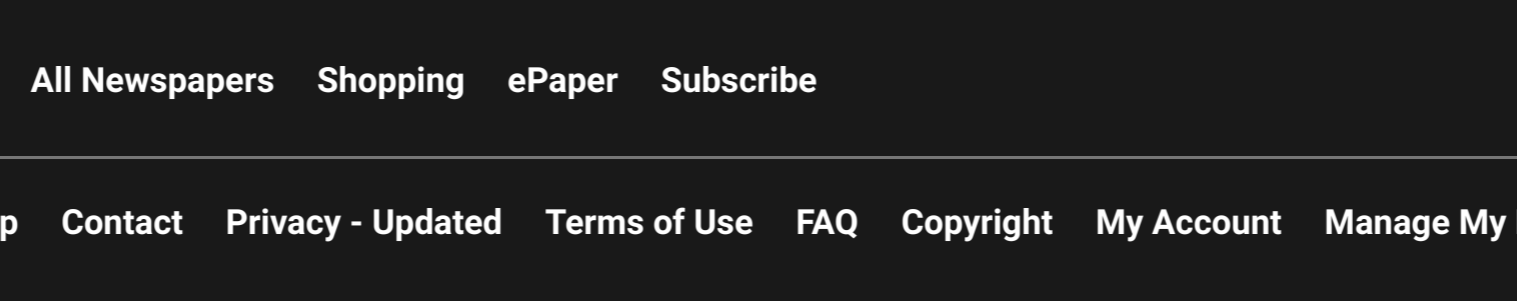
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