



Who are Colin and Kat?

If you've managed to get your hands on a copy of this list, we assume you know who we are, but if it's not the case, let us introduce ourselves!



Colin Geddes is one of the world's foremost horror experts and an experienced film programmer and producer. For 20 years from 1997 to 2016, he was an International Programmer at TIFF, in charge of the Midnight Madness and Vanguard selections. He currently works as a curator for AMC's horror streaming service, Shudder.



Colin's partner Katarina is a writer, editor, and manager of Canada's largest cinematic cultural celebration, National Canadian Film Day. Together, we are curators, archivists, producers, parents and bon vivants.

What is Ultra 8 Pictures?

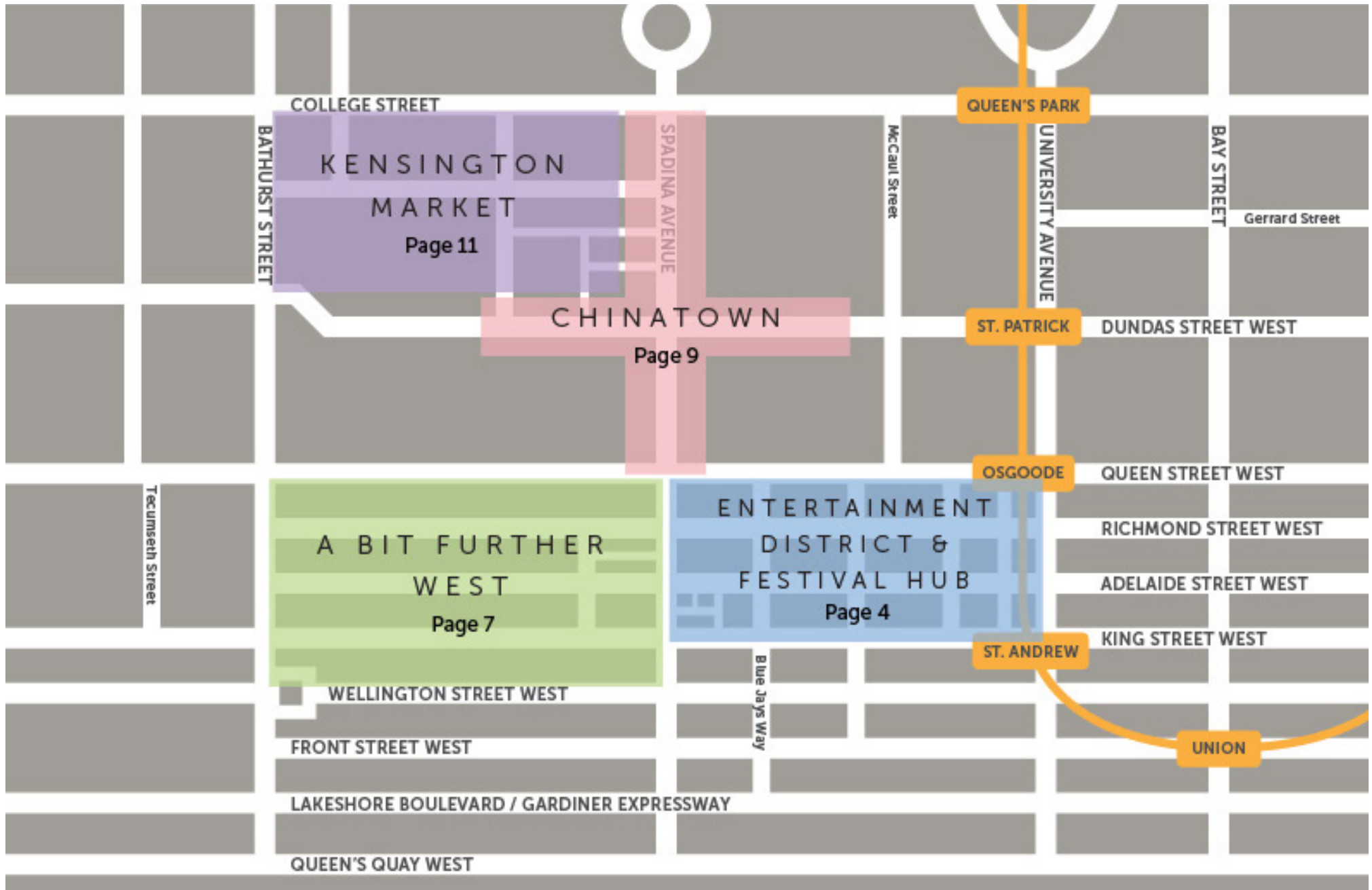
Co-helmed by Colin & Kat, U8P helps filmmakers get their projects made and seen by offering consulting services in the areas of script/development, post-production, sales/distribution and festival strategy.

Oh yeah, and we also produce our own films.

Visit ultra8.ca for more info.



Downtown Toronto



Entertainment District & Festival Hub



This area encompasses TIFF Bell Lightbox, the Scotiabank theatre, and surrounding festival area, and extends from University Ave to the east, Spadina Ave to the west, Queen Street to the north and Wellington Street to the south.

You don't need our help to find cheap sushi, basic pub food or a Starbucks in this area. Instead, a broad spectrum of our personal faves are listed below, from hole-in-the-wall hidden gems to high-end-but-worth-it.

1 [401 Richmond](#)

401 Richmond St. W.

A maze of arts businesses & galleries with a good café—the Roastery. Check out the Spacing Magazine shop for the smartest & coolest Toronto-centric souvenirs.

2 [Bang Sue Bar](#)

11 Charlotte St. | 647-352-5773

Upstairs from the Thai restaurant Khao San Road, you'll find this charming bar for beer, cocktails & Thai snacks.

3 [The Belly Buster](#)

389 King St. W | 647-748-1588

Don't let the name put you off. This sub shop is legit and their subs are a perfectly good lunch option near Lightbox for those who aren't gluten-averse.

4 [Dark Horse Espresso Bar](#)

125 John St. | 647-748-7700

The most delicious espresso-based beverages on your walk between TIFF Bell Lightbox and the Scotiabank theatre.

5 [Fresh](#)

147 Spadina Ave. | 416-599-4442

If you're feeling malnourished or need a fresh juice or smoothie boost, this is your place. Fresh has been around since the '90s, way before vegan comfort food became trendy.

6 [Jules Restaurant](#)

147 Spadina Ave. | 416-348-8886

An unpretentious French bistro at the foot of Chinatown. Great steak-frites deal at dinnertime.

7 [Khao San Road](#)

11 Charlotte St. | 647-352-5773

One of the best Thai restaurants in Toronto, 'nuff said.

8 [Korean Grill House](#)

214 Queen St. W | 416-263-9850

You want all-day, all-you-can-eat Korean BBQ? We've got all-day, all-you-can-eat Korean BBQ.

9 [LCBO](#)

49 Spadina Ave. | 416-598-1482

This brand spankin' new location of our government liquor retailer recently opened just a few doors south of where it used to be at King and Spadina.

10 [Millie Patisserie](#)

12 Oxley St. | 416-596-0063

Toronto is obsessed with Japanese desserts. This place takes it up a notch with French / Japanese dessert fusion, like matcha crêpe cake.

11 [Momofuku](#)

190 University Ave. | 647-253-6225

Located at the Shangri-La hotel, David Chang's three story complex features the noodle bar, milk bar and Kōjin (which specializes in local fare). More "very well known" than "hidden gem" but still great.

12 [Mother Tongue](#)

348 Adelaide St. W | 647-243-5858

Tucked away inside the small boutique Templar Hotel, this is one of Toronto's best new restaurants. They offer a "bottomless brunch" (all you can eat share plates of Asian-inspired dishes).

13 [Pai](#)

18 Duncan St. | 416-901-4724
Casual Northern Thai spot that also just happens to be Tony Jaa's fave place to eat Thai food in Toronto.

14 [The Queen Mother Café](#)

208 Queen St. W | 416-598-4719
This relaxed fixture on the Queen Street scene has been open for 40 years. That's about 250, in "Toronto restaurant years".

15 [Ravi Soups](#)

322 Adelaide St. W | 647-435-8365
Their soups are very delicious. So are their wraps. Nice little back patio, too.

16 [The Rex Hotel](#)

194 Queen St. W | 416-598-2475
A dirty old bar filled with legit jazz masters. TO's oldest jazz institution.

17 [Touhenboku Ramen](#)

261 Queen St. W | 416-596-8080
A comforting bowl of ramen. Not the very best in the city, but reliable and fast.

18 [Tokyo Hot Fried Chicken](#)

365 King St. W
A fusion of "Nashville hot chicken and Tokyo street food". Need we say more?



A Bit Further West...



If you keep walking west along any of the major streets (King, Queen or Wellington), between Spadina Ave and Bathurst St you'll find a wealth of other great bars and restaurants. Still walking distance and worth the extra trek especially for a great dinner.

1 [Avenue Open Kitchen](#)

1 Camden St. | 416-504-7131

The last of the old school diners downtown. This tiny spot is only open till 3pm, and only has a few booths and a counter. It's often crazy busy, but worth it for their peameal bacon alone.

2 [The Beast](#)

96 Tecumseth St. | 647-352-6000

A bit off the beaten path, this place has great weekly changing brunch and dinner menus of high-end locally sourced nose to tail type cuisine.

3 [Buca](#)

604 King St. W | 416-865-1600

Top tier "upscale rustic" Italian. Their house-made pastas are not to be missed.

4 [The Burger's Priest](#)

579 King St. W | 647-478-6729

You can keep your 5 Guys and your In & Outs. This is the best burger chain, period. Very creative veggie options (and keto buns, if you care about that sorta thing).

5 [Gandhi Roti](#)

554 Queen St. W | 416-504-8155

Roti (curry wrapped in a tortilla-like 'roti shell') is like Toronto's Philly Cheese Steak or Deep Dish Pizza, a beloved staple. This is East Indian style, not the traditional Caribbean, so expect flavours like butter chicken.

6 [Marben](#)

488 Wellington St. W | 416-979-1990

Hands down our favourite restaurant in the area for a nice dinner. Eclectic menu of locally sourced fare & cocktails.

7 [Pizzeria Libretto](#)

545 King St. W | 647-352-1200

Toronto's best wood-fired Neopolitan-style pizza. When Libretto first opened, there were line-ups around the block. Now they have multiple locations and the city has calmed down, but the pizza is still A++.

8 [Porchetta & Co.](#)

545 King St. W | 647-351-8844

The porchetta sandwich (a quarter pound with crackling) is worth the walk an extra block or two down King street. Trust.

9 [Quantum Coffee](#)

460 King St. W | 647-494-4429

Excellent quality coffee in a nice space. What more do you need to know?

10 [Rodney's Oyster House](#)

469 King St. W | 416-363-8105

An institution since 1987. They serve dozens of different varieties of oysters and other great fresh seafood.

11 [Le Sélect Bistro](#)

432 Wellington St. W | 416-596-6405

Most people already know about this place but we'd be remiss not to mention the most reliable fancy dinner place in the 'hood. It's been consistent for 40+ years.

12 [Soma Chocolate](#)

443 King St. W | 416-599-7662

Very, very, very good chocolate (and other stuff too). Go pick up a gift bag (for yourself).

13 [Thompson Diner](#)

550 Wellington St. W | 416-601-3533

Open very late, and your best bet for late night eats in the festival centre. The brown rice bowl on their brunch menu is hands-down the most delicious option.

14 [Weslodge Saloon](#)

480 King St. W | 647-660-0999

If you like your dinner with a side of mounted antlers, this old timey saloon (with modern seasonal dinner fare) is your place! Colin took Kat here for her birthday dinner the year he (coincidentally) gave her a taxidermied wolf's head as a present.

Chinatown

(Spadina, from Queen to the south to College to the north).



Chinatown is pretty self-explanatory, though there are a few non-Chinese gems to be found there as well. Chinatown is your best friend because so many of the restaurants are open until 5am. Here are our top ten places.

1 Chinese Traditional Buns

536 Dundas St. W (downstairs)

There's more of a regional flare in this no frills joint than many other small dumpling houses in the area. It will make you wish you grew up in Northern China.

2 Goldstone Noodle Restaurant

266 Spadina Ave.

Great Hong Kong style diner with excellent congee. The building to the north of Goldstone was the last of the Chinatown cinemas, the "Far East Theatre".

3 King's Noodle House

269 Spadina Ave.

The first place Colin ever had a bowl of Chinese noodles in Toronto back in 1988. Awwww. Recommended: BBQ duck & chicken noodle soup, or congee.

4 New Ho King

410 Spadina Ave.

This is one of Kat's favourite joints for late-night dining. Recommended: the magical "Hunan tofu" for vegetarians & for everyone else, the deep fried squid.

5 Hotel Ocho

195 Spadina Ave.

This boutique hotel has a great little bar / resto on the ground floor that's often quiet during the day (perfect for coffee or lunch meetings).

6 House of Gourmet

484 Dundas St. W

One of Chinatown's oldest and best for all the classics. Great crab & lobster menu, too.

7 R&D

241 Spadina Ave.

A classy, fusion-y place that serves modern "Canadian Asian cuisine" and has drink specials every day from 5pm to 7pm.

8 Rol San

323 Spadina Ave.

Good for all-day dim sum (off a menu, not cart service) & for Hong Kong film buffs, they have posters for Stephen Chow's God of Cookery on the walls. Incidentally, this is where Colin ate with the director of Ong Bak at 3am after the triumphant screening in 2003.

9 Sky Dragon

280 Spadina Ave.

This dim sum institution offers authentic Hong Kong-style cart service. Located on the 5th (top) floor of the Dragon City Mall at the corner of Dundas and Spadina.

10 Swatow

309 Spadina Ave.

Another Chinatown staple that has amazing homemade shrimp wontons solid noodles and great deep fried squid.



Kensington Market



Kensington Market has a rich 100+ year history as one of Toronto's most diverse neighbourhoods. Full of bars, restaurants, army surplus & vintage shops, produce stands, meat, fish & cheese shops, hippies and punks. There's A LOT more there than we've listed but it's a small area, so explore for yourselves. Don't miss the Al Waxman statue in Bellevue Square Park. Those of you who know Canadian TV will remember that Al was the King of Kensington.

1 [The Dirty Bird](#)

79 Kensington Ave. | 647-345-2473

A chicken and waffle place that scored pretty well on the "fried chicken crawl" that Kat participated in a few years ago.

2 [The Embassy](#)

223 Augusta Ave. | 416-591-1132

Tiny bar & often packed in the evenings, but it's really worth going in some afternoon for a pitcher of Pimms Cup (because they offer a pitcher of Pimms Cup!).

3 [The Hungary Thai](#)

196 Augusta Ave. | 416-595-6405

Yes, they serve Hungarian food and Thai food. It's not fusion, they just do both. Really well. Order a coconut soup followed by schnitzel. It's brilliant.

4 [Jumbo Empanadas](#)

245 Augusta Ave. | 416-977-0056

A neighbourhood institution since 1991, this place is known for their Chilean empanadas. But their humitas and corn pie are also terrific.

5 [Moonbean Café](#)

30 St. Andrew St. | 416-595-0327

Very good coffee place that's survived various waves of Kensington gentrification for decades. Baked goods also excellent, especially the bagel-shaped, cheese & spinach stuffed flaky "burekas".

6 [Nu Bügel](#)

240 Augusta Ave. | 647-748-4488

Not even the silly spelling can hide the fact that this place makes really good Montreal-style bagels, in the heart of Toronto.

7 [Golden Patty](#)

187 Baldwin St.

Another old-school staple of the Market. Know what "doubles" are? They are delicious chickpea curry sandwich type things, and this place has the best ones downtown, along with assorted other Caribbean snacks.

8 [Grey Gardens](#)

199 Augusta Ave. | 647-351-1552

The latest delectable from Toronto's undisputed restaurateur queen Jen Agg (read her book, *I Hear She's A Real Bitch*, too), Grey Gardens combines bold-yet-refined dishes with a boisterous-yet-classy atmosphere.

9 [Jimmy's Coffee](#)

191 Baldwin St. | 416-352-5466

A nice, reliable café with a lovely back patio. Popular neighbourhood hangout and a perfect spot to relax with an Americano and the paper.

10 [Little Pebbles](#)

160 Baldwin St, Unit 8 | 416-792-0404

This tiny bakery sells cute Japanese treats and lattes in flavours like black sesame and matcha. Try their chiffon cake or a dacquoise (think of it as a cousin to the macaron).

11 [Otto's Berlin Döner](#)

256 Augusta Ave | 647-347-7713

Yes, it's true! Berlin's most beloved street foods are now available in Toronto. Go here for doner, kebabs and currywurst.

12 [Pancho's Bakery](#)

214 Augusta Ave | 416-854-8770

Their business is primarily authentic Mexican churros, that delightful fried doughy dessert. However, they're also Instagram-famous for having invented the #churrocone (yeah, it's a cone made of churros, and it holds a giant scoop of ice cream).

13 [Rasta Pasta](#)

61 Kensington Ave. | 647-501-4505

The name says it all. They combine the best of Jamaican and Italian culture to make fab combos like grilled jerk chicken paninis, or gnocchi Alfredo served with ackee and saltfish.

14 [Ronnie's Local 069](#)

69 Nassau St. | 416-340-1110

Ronnie's is Kat's favourite bar in the market. Excellent vibe, simple but topnotch beer selection.

15 [Seven Lives Tacos](#)

69 Kensington Ave. | 416-803-1086

This cash-only taqueria delivers the best Baja-style tacos & seafood in the Market. Try the fish tacos.

16 [Thirsty & Miserable](#)

197 Baldwin St. | (647) 607-0134

A great beer bar that offers a carefully curated collection of Belgian trappists, American craft beers, locally sourced micro brews and ciders, and is named after a Black Flag song. An obvious fave.

17 [Aunties & Uncles](#) **BONUS!**

74 Lippincott St. | 416-324-1375

Not really in Kensington but it fits on the map. Colin's brunch staple for homey food in a lo-fi setting. These guys catered our wedding. We love them that much! Only open till 3pm (7 days a week, but weekend lineups are constant).





All TO Tips © Colin Geddes & Katarina Gligorijevic

This collection of hot tips reflects Colin & Kat's personal tastes & experiences living in Toronto and in no way is affiliated with any organizations or other people, places or things, living or dead, throughout the universe.

If you find our tips useful (or if you didn't), let us know at info@ultra8.ca or message us @colingeddes / @katarinag / @ultra8pictures on Twitter or Instagram.

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