

**The OMDC focuses on building strategic partnerships among the cultural media industries, including film and television, music, book and magazine publishing and interactive digital media.**

## Ontario Film and Television industry forms OFTC, partners with OMDC

On June 26, the new **Ontario Film and Television Consortium (OFTC)** was launched with a membership of more than 30 companies, and unions and guilds representing more than 25,000 people working in the industry.

Brian Topp, Executive Director of the Association of Canadian Cinema Television and Radio Artists (ACTRA), Toronto chapter and Patrick Whitley, President and CEO of Dufferin Gate Productions are co-chairs of the new Consortium. They addressed the media with respect to issues and challenges that the Ontario film and television faced last year, including the rising dollar, recent health crises, fiscal incentive competition, decline in overall production activity and the rise in global film and television jurisdictions competing for these projects.

"In the past 10 years, people working in Ontario have been able to rely on steady growth. In the next 10 we're going to have to work much more closely together to tackle some very serious issues hindering future growth—and threatening the work we've got now," said Topp. "This Consortium gives our entire industry and everyone working in it a chance to pool their efforts," said Whitley.

Marcelle Lean, Chair of the OMDC, along with Michel Frappier, CEO of the OMDC, were present to announce the new public-private partnership between the OMDC and the OFTC, which should ensure that one strong, united voice promotes Ontario as a world-class film and television centre.

"The OMDC's partnership with this new Consortium ensures that we are working together towards a common goal, which is to anchor production in the province by ensur-

ing that the key decision makers know that Ontario has 'the best faces, places, best value and is the best shot' in delivering a high-quality product in all stages from pre- to post production," stated Marcelle Lean.

For more information about the OFTC please contact Kim Hume at [khume@actratoronto.com](mailto:khume@actratoronto.com).

### Ontario Poetry Scholarships Announced

The Ministry of Culture and the OMDC recently announced \$10,000 in funding for a scholarship program at the Banff Centre for the Arts, designed to recognize emerging talent in Ontario poets. This one-year initiative will provide three poets living in Ontario with the opportunity to be selected for a scholarship for one of two existing writing programs at Banff.

Both programs are intended for writers at an early stage in their career who are producing work of literary merit. The Writing Studio is a five week residency at Banff that offers uninterrupted writing time, one-on-one editorial assistance from notable writers and editors and involvement with other working writers at a similar point in their writing careers. The Wired Writing Studio is the online equivalent of the Writing Studio program.

The Banff Centre will administer the scholarships and select the successful recipients. Ontario poets who are in the early stages of their writing careers are invited to apply. See [www.banffcentre.ca/programs/wp\\_writing\\_studio](http://www.banffcentre.ca/programs/wp_writing_studio)  
[www.banffcentre.ca/programs/wp\\_wired\\_writing\\_studio](http://www.banffcentre.ca/programs/wp_wired_writing_studio)  
E-mail queries to [writing\\_publishing@banffcentre.ca](mailto:writing_publishing@banffcentre.ca).

**E-mail your news and events by the third Thursday of the month to [newsletter@omdc.on.ca](mailto:newsletter@omdc.on.ca)**

To add or remove yourself from this newsletter list, e-mail Hodan Waberi at [hwaberi@omdc.on.ca](mailto:hwaberi@omdc.on.ca)

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## OMDC Updates and News

### Inaugural Pioneering Content Teams Chosen

Six projects have been awarded strategic and financial support in the inaugural round of the OMDC's Pioneering Content program. This new initiative provides cash grants of up to \$70,000 per project team as well as mentorship and consultations with industry professionals. The goal of the program is the creation of prototypes for innovative cultural media products.

The six successful projects are:

- **Blobheads Interactive** (Decode Entertainment in collaboration with Freedom Innovations and Sherpa Games)
- **Book Shorts** (Trapeze Media in collaboration with LTB Productions, BookTV, Random House of Canada and Judith Keenan Communications)

- **IndieMedia** (Sharp Media Corporation in collaboration with Sheeba Records and North by Northeast)

- **Inside Music DVD+** (Inside Music in collaboration with Darius Films Inc. and EMI Music Canada)

- **Juno Beach Centre Scrapbook and Virtual Tour** (Digital Wizards in collaboration with Anthony Luengo & Associates, Pearson Education Canada and Penguin Group Canada)

- **Vox Poll** (National Dream Productions in collaboration with Centripetal Thought, Global Television Network and the Dominion Institute)

The projects were selected based on their technological innovation, the track records of the collaborating organizations, cross-sector content, commercialization potential and feasibility. The next deadline for Expressions of Interest for this program is Sept. 27, 2003.

## Tax Credits for Web sites

Web sites are an eligible product for the Ontario Interactive Digital Media Tax Credit (OIDMTC). Ontario magazines and record labels that develop their own Web sites may be eligible for an OIDMTC.

The OIDMTC is a refundable tax credit of 20 per cent of eligible Ontario labour costs and marketing and distribution expenses for eligible interactive digital media products, including Web sites, CD-ROMs, games and e-learning products. Interactive digital media products with the primary purpose of educating, informing or entertaining, and that achieve this purpose by presenting information with at least two of text, sound and images, are eligible.

Magazine sites that have articles and pictures may meet these requirements. Web sites by record labels may qualify if they include music and/or video clips. However, if the primary purpose is to present or promote the qualifying corporation or the products or serv-

ices of the qualifying corporation, the Web site would not be eligible. The site must have more than 50 per cent content that is not simply promoting the magazine or its merchandise, or the albums of the record label.

A qualifying corporation is a taxable Canadian corporation—Canadian or foreign-owned—that develops an eligible product at a permanent establishment in Ontario. Corporations, on an associated basis, must not have annual gross revenues in excess of \$20 million or total assets in excess of \$10 million.

The organization can claim up to two years of labour expenditures and up to \$100,000 of marketing and distribution expenditures related to an eligible Web site. The tax credit is calculated at 20 per cent of the eligible expenditures.

To obtain an application form for a Certificate of Eligibility, or for further information, visit our Web site at [www.omdc.on.ca](http://www.omdc.on.ca) or contact the Tax Credits Department at 416-314-6858.

## Congratulations!

Margaret Avison is the Canadian winner of this year's **Griffin Poetry Prize** for *Concrete and Wild Carrot*, published by Brick Books. The \$40,000 cash prize was awarded on June 12 in Toronto. One of the largest literary awards for poetry in the world, the prize was established in September 2000 by Toronto-based industrialist and philanthropist Scott Griffin, Chairman of The Griffin Trust for Excellence in Poetry. The trust was created to serve and encourage excellence in poetry written in English anywhere in the world. The 2003 international winner is Paul Muldoon for *Moy Sand and Gravel*, published by Farrar, Strauss and Giroux.

Three Ontario companies were successful in their applications to **Telefilm's Music Entrepreneur Program**, including The Children's Group Inc. for *The Mozart Effect*, *Once Upon a Tune* and the *Classical Kids* series; True North Records/High Romance Music Limited for Bruce Cockburn, Murray McLachlan and Stephen Fearing; and Marquis for Molly Johnson, Alfie Zappacosta, Judy Loman and Elmer Iseler Singers. The Music Entrepreneur Program strives to help music entrepreneurs make the transition to the digital economy, effectively develop Canadian talent and ultimately help them become self-sufficient. See all the successful applicants at [www.telefilm.gc.ca/data/Communiqués/rel\\_325.asp](http://www.telefilm.gc.ca/data/Communiqués/rel_325.asp).

The Canadian Library Association honoured three Ontario publishers with awards. The winner of the **2003 Book of the Year for Children Award** was *Hana's Suitcase* by Karen Levine, published by Second Story Press. The award

was presented at the Lillian H. Smith Branch of the Toronto Public Library on June 21. Two Honour Books were also named, both written by Deborah Ellis: *Parvana's Journey*, published by Groundwood Books, and *A Company of Fools*, published by Fitzhenry & Whiteside.

"Co[re]late", commissioned by Digifest for its Interactive City Showcase and co-sponsored by the OMDC, was awarded **Canadian Architect Magazine's "Art of CAD" competition** in the Theoretical Dynamic category. The competition seeks out and acknowledges exemplary work and innovation in the area of computer-aided design. Look for project images in the June issue of *Canadian Architect*.

The OMDC's Business Innovation Group (BIG) will be sending the following music industry professionals to **Popkomm** this August as part of its Market Access Program: Sandy Pandya (Pandyamonimum Artist Management), Graham Stairs (poguru sound and vision), Charlene Camroux (Charlene Camroux Management), Ben Calcaterra (Ti Amo Records) and Steve Jordan (True North Records). In addition to some financial assistance, the program participants receive consulting time with music industry consultant Steve Propas.

The OMDC's Business Innovation Group has awarded two bursaries for the **Sundance Independent Producers Conference**. Paul Barkin of Alcina Pictures Ltd. and Kim Kuhteubl of Dish Pictures Ltd. will each receive \$2,500 toward conference attendance. The winners were chosen by Sundance's selection committee.

## OMDC Program Deadlines and Events

August 13 | Next deadline for the **Business Innovation Group's Sector Organization Support (SOS) Program**, which offers financial support to incorporated not-for-profit industry organizations undertaking professional development initiatives. These initiatives must advance the professional development needs of the participants and provide networking opportunities with other professionals. SOS will also encourage applications from organizations undertaking initiatives with multi-sector and convergence focused content. For the complete guideline and application package, please visit the OMDC Web site at [www.omdc.on.ca](http://www.omdc.on.ca).

August 25 | Submissions due for the **Al Waxman Calling Card Program for Documentary**. The program provides producers with the opportunity to hone their skills,

demonstrate their abilities, and prove their readiness to make commercial-length, market supported projects. Completed films are promoted through an industry screening and a premiere broadcast on TVOntario. See [www.omdc.on.ca](http://www.omdc.on.ca).

Sept. 22 | Deadline at 5 p.m. for **Volume One: A Magazine Start-Up Program**. This initiative will provide up to \$75,000 each to three teams launching a new magazine in Ontario. In addition to the funding, winning teams will receive consulting time with industry experts in key areas of the magazine business, including editorial, ad sales, art direction, marketing and circulation management. The winners will also be part of a launch event for all of the new titles, hosted by the OMDC. For guidelines and an application package see [www.omdc.on.ca](http://www.omdc.on.ca).

## OMDC Supported Events and Program Deadlines

July 17, Sept. 10 | **Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television Speaker Series.** These popular panel discussions, covering topics ranging from the future of the National Film Board, to expectations of digital television, to updates on the status of convergence are a valuable resource for Academy members and other industry professionals. They provide resources and information and valuable networking opportunities.

- July 17 | **Quality Casting for your Film or Television Show**, with Tina Gerussi (Tina Gerussi Casting Inc.), Marsha Chesley (Marsha Chesley Casting), Christopher Richards (Casting Director, Alliance Atlantis) and Darlene Hebert (CBC Talent Resource Centre).

- Sept. 10 | **Interactive Television**, with Nicole Hamilton (*Degrassi The Next Generation*), Alissa Vernon (*The Sex Files*, *The Daily Planet*), Teresa Wells (*Time Trackers*) and Denny Silverthorne (*Odd Job Jack*).

For more information please see the Academy Web site at [www.academy.ca](http://www.academy.ca).

Aug. 29-30 | **Toronto Urban Music Festival** at the CNE in Toronto. Presented by *WORD* Magazine, this festival showcases the best in urban music and lifestyle. The Festival will include performances in hip hop, R & B, gospel, spoken word, dance and poetry, as well as a conference on topics that are of interest to the urban music community. Last year's topics included "Urban Music and the Internet" and "How to Present Your Music to Music Labels." For more information, visit the Web site at [www.tumf.net](http://www.tumf.net).

Oct. 16-19 | **Ottawa International Animation Festival.** This festival is North America's largest and most important animation festival, the second largest in the world. In addition to the screenings, there were be three workshops at the festival: Introduction to Producing for Animation, Organizing Your Project, and The Legalities of Producing Animation. For more information please see the festival Web site at [www.awn.com/ottawa/](http://www.awn.com/ottawa/).

## Upcoming Markets and Festivals

July 31-Aug. 3 | **Sundance Institute 18th Annual Independent Producers Conference** in Sundance, Utah. [www.institute.sundance.org](http://www.institute.sundance.org)

Aug. 14-16 | **POPKOMM** in Cologne, Germany. [www.popkomm.de/popkomm/de/business/](http://www.popkomm.de/popkomm/de/business/)

Aug. 26-29 | **Game Developers' Conference Europe** in London, UK. [www.ects.com](http://www.ects.com)

Aug. 27-Sept. 7 | **Montreal World Film Festival.** [www.ffm-montreal.org](http://www.ffm-montreal.org)

Aug. 29-30 | **Toronto Urban Music Conference.** [www.tumf.net](http://www.tumf.net)

Sept. 4-13 | **Toronto International Film Festival.** [www.bell.ca/filmfest](http://www.bell.ca/filmfest)

Sept. 12-20 | **Atlantic Film Festival** in Halifax, N.S. [www.atlanticfilm.com/aff.html](http://www.atlanticfilm.com/aff.html)

Sept. 15-21 | **Sudbury Film Festival.** [www.cinefest.com](http://www.cinefest.com)

Sept. 25-Oct. 10 | **Vancouver International Film Festival.** [www.viff.org](http://www.viff.org)

Sept. 28 | **Word On the Street** in various Canadian cities, including Toronto. [www.thewordonthestreet.ca](http://www.thewordonthestreet.ca)

Sept. 29-Oct. 1 | **2003 Digital Hollywood** in Los Angeles. [www.digitalhollywood.com](http://www.digitalhollywood.com)

Oct. 2-5 | **Salon du livre** in Toronto. [www.salondulivredetoronto.ca](http://www.salondulivredetoronto.ca)

Oct. 8-13 | **Frankfurt Book Fair.** [www.frankfurt-book-fair.com/en/portal.html](http://www.frankfurt-book-fair.com/en/portal.html)

Oct. 10-14 | **MIPCOM** in Cannes, France. [www.mipcom.com](http://www.mipcom.com)

Oct. 16-19 | **Ottawa International Animation Festival.** [www.awn.com/ottawa/](http://www.awn.com/ottawa/)

Oct. 17-19 | **Ontario Council of Folk Festivals Conference** in Sudbury, Ont. [www.ocff.ca/conf.htm](http://www.ocff.ca/conf.htm)

## Upcoming Events and Industry Deadlines

July 8, Aug. 12 | **Goodmans Breakfast Club Series: Reel Careers Real Stories.** The inside story on working in film, television and digital media straight from the top.

- July 8 | Television distribution with Jill Keenleyside, Executive Vice President Distribution, CCI.
- August 12 | Interactive Gaming with Warren Currell, Co-Founder and President, Sherpa Games.

See [www.wift.com/midcareer\\_goodmans\\_break.html](http://www.wift.com/midcareer_goodmans_break.html).

July 9-Aug. 27 | **WIFT-T In Production Industry Workshop Series.** Every week, industry experts from film and television teach key skills and practical knowledge from the inside track. Fees range from \$25-\$45. For a complete list of sessions, venues, fees, times and detailed information about industry guests, go to [www.wift.com/midcareer\\_in\\_prod\\_wkshp.html](http://www.wift.com/midcareer_in_prod_wkshp.html).

July 14 | Deadline for **TELEFILM CANADA PITCH THIS!** An initiative of the Toronto International Film Festival Group, the competition will be held at the Rogers Industry Centre. Applications are available online at [www.rogersic.com](http://www.rogersic.com). Six projects from Canada will be selected to make a pitch on Sept. 8. The best pitch wins the \$10,000 award. For information contact Cathy Katrib at 416-934-3265 or [ckatrib@torfilmfest.ca](mailto:ckatrib@torfilmfest.ca).

July 11 | Deadline for applications to the **National Screen Institute's Features First** program takes place at 4:30 p.m. central time. This is a training program that emphasizes both the professional development of emerging filmmakers and the final development and packaging of their feature film projects. Up to five teams of emerging filmmakers from across the country will be selected to receive customized project development and direction. For more information and a complete guideline package visit the Web site at [www.nsi-canada.ca/featuresfirst/](http://www.nsi-canada.ca/featuresfirst/).

July 18 | Deadline for **STRATEGIC PARTNERS.** Right up there with Rotterdam, Mannheim and New York, Halifax's Strategic Partners is Canada's premiere, international, co-production/co-venturing conference, featuring the effective project-driven, pre-scheduled meetings format. The OMDC is underwriting the registration fees for selected Ontario Producers through its support of the Strategic Partners 2003 program. Producers should apply directly to Strategic Partners. Please do not contact the OMDC. Contact Strategic Partners—The Atlantic Film Festival at 902-420-4331 or e-mail [strategicpartners@atlanticfilm.com](mailto:strategicpartners@atlanticfilm.com).

July 26, 27 | Max the Mutt Animation and Tooned In! Workshops

present **"Finding Your Inner Toon"** with Emmy Award Winner Stevie Vallance. This two-day "Cartoon Voice Over Intensive for Industry Professionals and Actors" will focus on audition monologues, improv exercises, mike technique, the basic ins and outs of the business and making a CD demo. The workshop costs \$500. For enrollment details contact Noelle Belgrave at [info@max-themutt.com](mailto:info@max-themutt.com) or 416-703-6877 in Toronto or 1-877-486-MUTT.

Aug. 1 | Deadline for submissions to the **7th Annual Toronto Reel Asian Film Festival.** All films must be independently produced with an Asian / Asian-North American in a key creative role. Submissions from first-time and emerging directors are encouraged and student films are welcome. For more information and a complete guideline package visit [www.reelasian.com/index.htm](http://www.reelasian.com/index.htm).

Aug. 1 | Nominations due for **Music and Film in Motion's 2003 Northern Ontario Music and Film Awards Program.** Awards will be given in five categories for both film and music. For more information visit [www.musicandfilminmotion.com](http://www.musicandfilminmotion.com).

Aug. 8-13 | The Canadian Consulate General in Sydney invites Canadian new media / digital media / multimedia companies to participate in the **8th Interact Asia Pacific Multimedia Festival** in Melbourne, Australia. The Interact Festival is the largest information and communications technology development event of its kind in the Asia Pacific region and the place to do business in Australia. The Consulate is offering a tailor-made program for participating Canadian companies. Key decision makers, partners and buyers, both in government and the private sector, will be invited to meet with Canadian companies at partnering forums as well as attend a networking reception hosted by the Consulate. Creative content / new media companies may be eligible for financial assistance under the Trade Routes program. For more information please visit [www.canadianheritage.gc.ca/routes/](http://www.canadianheritage.gc.ca/routes/).

Sept. 23 | Deadline for **Telefilm Canada's Canadian New Media Fund Product Assistance** and **Distribution Assistance** programs. The Fund provides \$9 million per year in support of the pre-development, development, production, marketing and distribution of Canadian new media products, as well as support for sectoral development. See "Guidelines" and "Frequently Asked Questions" at [www.telefilm.gc.ca/03/311.asp?lang=en&fond\\_id=3](http://www.telefilm.gc.ca/03/311.asp?lang=en&fond_id=3) for details on the fund.