

OMDC: "Culture is our Business." Promoting growth and investment in Ontario's book and magazine publishing, film and television, music and interactive digital media industries

OMDC Film Initiative Invests \$1.5 Million in Ontario's Feature Film Industry

Over 100 of the leading lights from Ontario's domestic film and television industry were on hand to celebrate the announcement of OMDC's Film Initiative, which will invest \$1.5 million in the development and production of theatrical feature films in the province.

Marcelle Lean, Chair of OMDC, announced that "OMDC Film Initiative has two components—a development stream and a production stream—and the goal is to increase the level of indigenous feature film production in Ontario by providing Ontario film producers with much needed capital to help them offset their development costs and provide the final funding piece needed to go into production."

Producers in attendance applauded the announcement. "It's great news for Ontario producers and will be very helpful for both the development and production phases," said Teza Lawrence, from Amaze Film & Television Inc. "It's good to see the Ontario government getting back into the game with this OMDC initiative."

"The feedback we're getting from producers is very positive," notes OMDC Acting Director of Industry Development, Kristine Murphy. "We're optimistic that this pilot film initiative will address those gaps in development and production financing that too many Ontario producers scramble to fill. We're hoping that by giving Ontario productions support in filling this final and often vital piece of the financing puzzle, more indigenous Ontario films will find their way to the big screen."

OMDC and its predecessor, Ontario Film Development Corporation, have a long history of developing, supporting and promoting Ontario filmmakers. The cultural force of Ontario's filmmakers is

evident this year, with many of our best-known filmmakers making a splash at this year's Toronto International Film Festival® including Deepa Mehta's film *Water*, David Cronenberg's *History Of Violence*, Atom Egoyan's *Where The Truth Lies*, Clement Virgo's *Lie With Me*, Sturla Gunnarson's *Beowulf & Grendel*, and Allan King's *Memory For Max, Claire, Ida And Company*, to name just a few.

OMDC Film Initiative is designed to build on this outstanding reputation by supporting a range of projects that bring both cultural and economic benefit to the province. Last year alone, Ontario's film and television industry contributed \$934.5 million to our province's economy. The prime objectives of the fund are to increase investment and jobs in Ontario by Ontario-based feature film production companies; assist in capitalizing Ontario-based feature film companies; and increase the number of high-quality, original feature films produced in Ontario by Ontario-based production companies.

Ontario-based producers can apply for up to \$50,000 for development projects and up to \$250,000 for production. Guidelines and applications forms are available on OMDC's website at www.omdc.on.ca. The deadline to apply for the OMDC Film Initiative is Oct. 7, 2005 by 5:00 p.m.

To register for OMDC Film Initiative Information Sessions, which take place Friday, Sept. 16 at Marriott Toronto Bloor Yorkville (Forest Hill Ballroom), located at 90 Bloor Street East in Toronto, go to www.omdc.on.ca. The development session will run from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. followed by the production session, which runs from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

E-mail your news and events by the third Thursday of each month to newsletter@omdc.on.ca

To add or remove yourself from this newsletter list, e-mail Hodan Waberi at hwaberi@omdc.on.ca

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The contents of this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of OMDC

OMDC Program Deadlines & Supported Events

Sept. 16 | **OMDC Film Initiative Information Session.** Registration closes on Sept. 15. Session times are Development, 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., Production 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Marriott Toronto Bloor Yorkville, Forest Hill Ballroom, 90 Bloor St. E. To register, complete our online Information Session Registration Form at www.omdc.on.ca/English/page-1-2115-1.html. Unregistered guests will be accepted if space permits.

Sept. 30 | Deadline for **OMDC Magazine Fund** (formerly known as Volume Two), which provides funds of up to

\$25,000 to Canadian-owned, Ontario-based magazine publishers to support projects with clear objectives and measurable results that will support the overall business growth of the magazine publisher. Guidelines and application form for this program are available at www.omdc.on.ca under Programs/Content and Marketing Support.

Oct. 7 | Deadline to submit applications for **OMDC Film Initiative**, which provide support to Ontario producers for feature-film projects in the final stages of development and production financing.

Upcoming Events & Industry Deadlines

Early Sept./Nov. | Film submissions for **Hot Docs** open in early September 2005 and Pitch Slot submissions for the Toronto Documentary Forum (TDF) open in late November 2005. Hot Docs, North America's largest documentary festival and market, presents its 13th annual edition from April 28 to May 7, 2006. The Toronto Documentary Forum (TDF) will run May 3 and 4, 2006. Visit www.hotdocs.ca for more information and submission forms.

Sept. 14 | Toronto's Coach House Press turns 40. To celebrate, International Readings presents **A Virtual Tour of the Coach House Press** on Sept. 14th in Harbourfront Centre's Brigantine Room, 235 Queens Quay West at 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$8, free for members and students (with valid ID). This multimedia event will feature readings and reminiscences by George Bowering, Stephen Cain, Margaret Christakos, Lynn Crosbie, Karen Hines, Andrew Kaufman, Anne Michaels, Darren O'Donnell, Michael Ondaatje, Sarah Sheard, Darren Wershler-Henry and David Young, and will be hosted by Michael Redhill. For info and tickets visit www.readings.org or call 416-973-4000.

Sept. 20 | Deadline to submit registration forms to Telefilm Canada to participate under the umbrella Canada Office at the **American Film Market (AFM) 2005** in Santa Monica, Nov. 2 to 9. If you are a production and sales company interested in participating, consult the following documents for further information and the registration form: www.telefilm.gc.ca/document/en/05/523/AFM_2005_en.pdf or visit www.telefilm.gc.ca.

Sept. 22 | MyMedia Biz.com presents **Building Media Buzz for your Business Workshop!** Learn how to get great publicity. Workshop moderator Susan Sommers is one of Canada's leading experts in marketing and media relations training and consulting. The three-hour long workshop is being held at @Wallace Studios, 258 Wallace Avenue; the fee is \$50. Visit: www.mymediabiz.com or to register email Marie DeLuca at marie@mymediabiz.com.

Sept. 30 | Deadline to apply to participate in the **eLearning Canada Pavilion at Online Educa Berlin** (Nov. 30 to Dec. 2, 2005) the world's leading international e-learning conference. This opportunity is offered by the Canadian Interactive

Alliance/Alliance Interactive Canadienne (CI@IC), a partnership of eight of Canada's most prominent associations and the voice of interactive media content in this country. For more information contact Kathleen Webb at 416-878-8876 or kathleen@newmediabc.com. Guidelines and application forms are available on the New Media BC website at www.newmediabc.com/online-educa.pdf.

Sept. 30 | Deadline for applications to **NSI Features First**. NSI, in Association with Telefilm Canada, will provide up to five writer-director-producer teams with the opportunity to take part in this 10-month, three-phase program. www.nsi-canada.ca/featuresfirst

Oct. 19 | Telefilm announces their second 2005-2006 **Canada New Media Fund** deadline. For info and to register visit www.telefilm.gc.ca/extranet/en/02_comment.asp

Nov 4 | Deadline to submit applications for the **NSI Drama Prize**. Each year, up to five filmmaking teams from across Canada are selected to receive \$9,500 in cash support, over \$16,000 in services and a world premiere screening at NSI FilmExchange Canadian Film Festival. The program begins in March at the 2006 NSI FilmExchange in Winnipeg. For applications forms and guidelines info visit www.nsi-canada.ca/dramaprize

Nov. 6-9 | **The World Congress of Science Producers (WCSP)**, a member-run organization of documentary professionals working in factual, science and natural history programming, is holding their 13th-annual Congress in Tokyo from Nov. 6 to 9. More than 350 broadcasters, producers, journalists and distributors from more than 20 countries are expected to attend this year's Congress. Online registration is currently open at www.scienceproducers.com.

Nov. 10-12 | The Canadian Embassy in Seoul is planning to participate in **G-Star 2005 Game Show and Trade Event** (www.gstar.or.kr) in Seoul, Korea, Nov. 10 to 12. This event covers all platforms including arcade, console, online, mobile and PC games. Public and private sector organizations interested in participating as exhibitors, attendees, speakers, etc. should contact Hyun-Ju Lim, Trade Commissioner, Canadian Embassy in Seoul at hyun-ju.lim@international.gc.ca.

Congratulations!

On August 18, 2005 CTV's ***Degrassi: The Next Generation*** won a 2005 Teen Choice Award for "Choice Summer Series." Hosted by teen queen Hilary Duff and comedian Rob Schneider, the Awards were presented in Universal City, Calif., at the Gibson Amphitheatre. Just after receiving an award at the Television Critics Association (TCA) Awards in Los Angeles, the CTV original series topped all 11 U.S. nominees, including FOX's *American Dad*, ABC's *Dancing with the Stars* and CBS's *Big Brother*, to take home the coveted Teen Choice surfboard. This marks the first time a Canadian series has been nominated for, and won this award. Congratulations

to CTV and Epitome Pictures Inc.! For a complete list of nominees and winners, visit the Fox website at: www.fox.com/tca2005/nominees.htm

The **National Screen Institute—Canada** (NSI) announced the participants for the 2005 NSI Global Marketing Program MIPCOM. Congratulations to the two Ontario finalists: Jennifer Holness of Hungry Eyes/Film Food Inc and Jeanette Loakman of Chocolate Box. For more info on the finalists contact: Chris Vajcner, NSI Publicity & Media Relations at 204-957-2998 or send an email to chris.vajcner@nsi-canada.ca.

Upcoming Markets, Awards and Festivals

Sept. 8-17	Toronto International Film Festival. www.e.bell.ca/filmfest
Sept. 14-16	Popkomm, Berlin, Germany. www.popkomm.de
Sept. 16-18	Strategic Partners 2005 Atlantic Film Festival http://www.atlanticfilm.com
Sept. 17-25	Cinéfest Sudbury International Film Festival, Sudbury. www.cinefest.com
Sept. 21-25	Ottawa International Animation Festival 2005. www.awn.com/ottawa
Sept. 25	The Word on the Street, Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto and Halifax. www.thewordonthestreet.ca
Oct. 13-16	Ontario's Folk Music Festival, Kingston, Ontario. www.ocff.ca
Oct. 17-21	MIPCOM, The World's audio-visual market, Cannes, France. www.mipcom.com
Oct. 19-21	Frankfurt Bookfair 2005, Frankfurt, Germany. www.frankfurt-book-fair.com
Oct. 31-Nov. 1	Serious Games Summit, Washington D.C. www.seriousgamesummit.com
Nov. 2-3	Montreal International Game Summit, Mount Royal Centre, Montreal. www.montrealgamesummit.com
Nov 3 – 13	The 19th AFI Los Angeles International Film Festival, Los Angeles. www.afi.com
Nov. 4-5	Canadian Urban Music Awards. www.umac.ca
Nov. 17-26	Mannheim International Film Festival, Mannheim, Germany www.mannheim-filmfestival.com