

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

Celebrating Ontario Filmmakers at the Toronto International Film Festival®

On Sept. 8, OMDC opened the Toronto International Film Festival® with *Celebrate Ontario*, an event to honour Ontario filmmakers. The event provided a wonderful opportunity for key stakeholders to mingle and mix with Ontario filmmakers programmed at TIFF this year.

OMDC Vice Chair, Peter Steinmetz, kicked off *Celebrate Ontario* with a toast to the agency's 20th anniversary (founded 20 years ago as the Ontario Film Development Corporation, or OFDC). He acknowledged that

"the agency has been on the forefront of attracting investment to the province for years."

Minister of Culture, Caroline Di Cocco was present and noted, "It's great to celebrate the talent here at the Toronto International Film Festival® and the role OMDC has played."

Minister Di Cocco added, "Thanks to events such as the Toronto International Film Festival®, the international spotlight is focused on Ontario. TIFF reinforces Ontario as a contender in this high-growth, high stakes industry."

Actor, writer and director Sarah Polley, whose film *Away From Her* is based on a story by Alice Munro, stated, "It's a quintessential Ontario story." Recalling a former project, where Winnipeg had to double as Sarnia due to lack of funds, Polley said, "There was a moment when we had to consider filming in Winnipeg. OMDC really came to our rescue on *Away From Her*. It's fantastic to see programs renewed and funding increased." Polley called for additional funding in the future, saying, "I sincerely hope we can keep production here where it belongs."

Minister Di Cocco acknowledged the importance of Ontario's film heritage to Toronto and to the world. She offered congratulations

Kristine Murphy, acting CEO of OMDC greets newly appointed OMDC Chair, Kevin Shea and James Weyman, Manager of Industry Initiatives, OMDC



to Kevin Shea, new chair of OMDC, saying, "I look forward to productive times with Kevin in leadership." She also commended Sarah Polley, saying, "Thank you very much for staying in Ontario."

OMDC congratulates Sarah Polley on her feature debut. *Away From Her* (Capri Releasing in Canada) captured critical success and garnered a U.S. distribution deal with Lionsgate to bring this film to a wider audience beyond the festival screen.

The festival closed with Ontario filmmaker Jennifer Baichwal's documentary *Manufactured Landscapes* taking home the \$30,000 Toronto-City Award For Best Canadian Feature Film. An honourable mention was also given to Reg Harkema's *Monkey Warfare*. For a full list of winners go to www.e.bell.ca/filmfest/2006/media_centre/news_releaseItem.asp?id=264



*Minister of Culture,
Caroline Di Cocco*

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

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OMDC Initiatives and Fund Program Deadlines

Oct. 4 | Deadline for the **OMDC Interactive Digital Media Fund**. This program is open to Ontario screen-based content creation companies that are actively involved in the production and exploitation of interactive digital media content. Eligible projects may represent a range of genres, delivery platforms and budgets, but must be suitable for distribution on a digital media platform, network or device that is interactive. Successful applicants to this program will receive a non-refundable contribution of up to \$100,000 to a maximum of 50% of the project budget to create a market-ready interactive digital media content product. Complete program information is available online at www.omdc.on.ca under Programs/ Content and Marketing Funds.

The Entertainment and Creative Cluster Partnerships Fund is a new \$7.5 million fund (over three

years). Announced in the Ontario budget in March, the fund will encourage the long-term growth of the cultural media industries. The fund is co-administered by the OMDC and the Ministry of Culture. Guidelines and application forms for the 2006/07 allotment of \$1.8 million will be available on the OMDC website by late September 2006.

Sept. 21 | **UK Music Mission**. OMDC, along with partners CMW, United Kingdom Trade and Investment, is organizing a mission of up to 10 Ontario music companies to "In the City" in Manchester, England and one day of meetings in London, England from Oct. 29 to Nov. 1. For more information contact Jennifer Brown at 416-642-6652 or via e-mail at jbrown@omdc.on.ca.

OMDC's International Finance Forum a Smash Hit!

OMDC kicked off their Toronto International Film Festival® activities with the inaugural International Finance Forum (IFF) on Sept. 8. IFF was a targeted one-day co-production conference based around an arranged schedule of meetings and networking sessions, with one-on-ones in the morning and roundtables in the afternoon. Designed to build on the presence of a number of international producers coming to Toronto for TIFF looking for creative and financing partners, producers were selected based on an application process and projects in development suitable for co-finance.

More than 60 companies participated in the day's events, including over 40 production companies and 20 international VIP agents, funders, distributors, sales agents and executive producers. Ontario was well represented by 17 companies, who met with 18 international producers as well as the VIPs. Overall, 200 one-on-one meetings were brokered for the morning and 128 delegates participated in 16 afternoon roundtable sessions.

The Networking Lunch proved popular with a number of additional Canadian and international guests adding value to the event. Lunch speaker Howard Gertler, producer of the controversial feature *Shortbus*, kept the delegates informed and amused with a revealing discussion of the financing, marketing and distribution of the film, in conversation with Toronto producer Damon D'Oliveira (*Lie With Me*).

"The participation of the VIPs was critical to the conception of the event," comments James Weyman,

Manager of Industry Initiatives at the OMDC. "Producers have the content and the buyers have the money. Seems like it worked—the feedback we are getting is very positive."

"IFF delivered high-quality producers with solid projects," observed IFF VIP Jodi Zuckerman, VP Creative Affairs, Participant Productions (*Good Night and Good Luck*; *Syriana*). "It is clear to me that there will be opportunities for Participant to work with some of these producers in the future."

OMDC will track the projects and producers over the year and report back with details of business relationships that have been generated by this outstanding international event.

Thanks to the Toronto International Film Festival® for their support, and special thanks to IFF sponsors Telefilm Canada, RBC Royal Bank and UK Trade and Investment, as well as SODEC, BCFilm and Film Alberta for their participation.



Upcoming Events & Industry Deadlines

Word: Canada's Magazine for Readers + Writers features a monthly Toronto literary calendar on its website. To subscribe to Word and find out about literary events happening every month around Toronto, check out the website at wordmagazine.ca.

Sept. 29 | The National Screen Institute, in association with Telefilm Canada and program partner The Brian Linehan Charitable Foundation, is seeking Canadian filmmaking teams for the **NSI Features First training program**, which helps emerging filmmakers develop their first or second feature film. Guidelines and applications forms are available at www.nsi-canada.ca/featuresfirst/index.shtml

Oct. 2-3 | **London UK Games Festival-Where is Ontario?** The Ontario International Marketing Centre in London, UK is inviting game companies from Ontario to participate at the first-ever London Games Festival (Oct. 2 to 3). The main component is the Canada Games Pavilion in the London Content, Outsourcing and Middleware Market. Ian Kelso, President of New Media Business Alliance, is Ontario's contact (416-516-0077 ext. 222). For information visit www.londongamesfestival.co.uk. For more details on how to participate visit www.numeriq.ca/LGF. Companies may also send material for display and distribution at this event by contacting Cheryl.Donais@international.gc.ca.

Oct. 25 | Deadline to apply for an internship position at **WIFT-T** and a call for applications. The deadline for applications is Oct. 25 at 12 noon EST. Eligibility criteria, full guidelines and application forms are available from the WIFT-T website at www.wift.com. Applications will be reviewed by a selection committee composed of industry representatives with final decisions announced in November 2006.

Oct. 31 | **Canadian Film Centre - The TELUS Interactive Art & Entertainment Programme** (TELUS IAEP) is Canada's first post-graduate programme for new media training and production based on a philosophy that compelling content is created through a collaborative process harnessing a wide range of creative skills, knowledge and talents. Graduates develop a life-long understanding of technology and foster a creative spirit that informs their thinking throughout their career. For more information

and to apply, please contact 416.445.1446 x296 or e-mail habitat@cdnfilmcentre.com.

Nov. 1 | **The National Screen Institute – NSI FilmExchange**. Is your film project ready for the big screen? NSI FilmExchange Canadian Film Festival, Canada's Coolest Film Festival, is looking for the best Canadian dramatic shorts and features to screen February 28 to March 3, 2007 in Winnipeg. For information and to apply visit www.nsi-canada.ca.

Nov. 3-6 | Magazines Canada's **School for Advertising Sales**. This intensive session is perfect for those new to magazines sales, those seeking a refresher and other magazine staff who would like to understand the challenges of the sales department. Hosted at The Pillar and Post Inn Spa and Conference Centre in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Magazinescanada.ca

Nov. 17-18 | The **1st Annual Can Pitch Event** will be held at the Pantages Hotel in downtown Toronto. Well-respected members of the film and television community will be invited to participate in this unique event designed to offer writers and creative types the chance to pitch their fresh ideas in a fast-paced, exciting environment. Funded by the Government of Canada, this free event will include multiple workshops led by industry professionals, a well-known keynote speaker, an exhibitors' carousel and sponsor partnerships with Canadian companies interested in growing their reputation within the film industry. If you're interested in supporting the event in any way or you would like to participate in the pitch event, e-mail Marie DeLuca, General Manager, Partner, Can Pitch Event 2006 at marie.deluca@rogers.com.

Nov. 18-20 | **Print World 2006** (Formerly known as Print Ontario) at the National Trade Centre, CNE, Toronto. For information call 905-625-7070 or see printworldshow.com.

Jan. 28, 2007 | **Canadian Songwriters Hall of Fame (CSHF) 4th Annual Gala** will be held at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre's John Bassett Theatre. 2007 Inductees into the Canadian Hall of Fame will be announced at a press conference in November 2006. Tickets for the Gala will go on sale soon afterwards. Don't forget to add this star-studded event to your calendar! Visit cansong.ca for regular updates.

Upcoming Markets and Festivals

Sept. 20-22	POPKOMM. Berlin, Germany. www.popkomm.com
Sept. 20-24	Ottawa International Animation Festival. http://ottawa.awn.com/
Sept. 22-24	Tokyo Game Show. Tokyo, Japan. http://tgs.cesa.or.jp/english/
Sept. 24	The Word On The Street. Toronto. thewordonthestreet.ca/toronto.php
Oct. 4-8	Frankfurt Book Fair. Frankfurt, Germany. frankfurt-book-fair.com
Oct. 9-13	MIPCOM. Cannes, France. mipcom.com
Nov. 11-14	World Congress of Science & Factual Producers. Manchester, UK. scienceproducers.com/
Nov. 18-20	Print World 2006. Toronto. printworldshow.com
Nov. 30-Dec.3	Whistler Film Festival. Whistler, BC. whistlerfilmfestival.com

Congratulations!

The OMDC is providing financial support to 84 Ontario companies across several sectors through the **OMDC Export Fund program**. This program was created to assist Ontario companies in pursuing export development activities that correspond to strategies for company growth. The activities supported include attendance at international markets and targeted sales trips. For a complete list of the companies receiving this support visit OMDC's website at www.omdc.on.ca under Programs/Export Fund. Congratulations to all the companies!

On Sept. 10, **Canadianfilmmaker.com**, a new website that provides a discerning insiders' guide to the business of feature filmmaking in Canada, was officially launched at WIFT-T's 2006 Festival Reception at the Park Hyatt Toronto. Developed in

partnership with DGC Ontario, the Ontario Trillium Foundation and a host of industry and government partners, canadianfilmmaker.com is a first-ever resource for Canadian filmmakers and a unique, one-stop online guide. The site explains the business of feature filmmaking in Canada, from development and financing to distribution and marketing, with practical tips and real-life stories from some of the industry's leading experts. Visit canadianfilmmaker.com.

On Sept. 13, **Santa Baby**, an OMDC Al Waxman Calling Card short dramatic film produced by Robert Richardson and directed by David Widdicombe was awarded the Best Comedy Award at the Los Angeles International Short Film Festival. This award makes the film eligible to be submitted for a nomination for an Academy Award®.