

OMDC

INTEGRATION NEWSLETTER

January 2008

ONTARIO MEDIA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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

Entertainment and Creative Cluster Partnerships Fund invests \$1.7 M

On January 7, the Hon. Aileen Carroll, Minister of Culture, and OMDC Chair Kevin Shea announced a \$1.7 million investment in 13 initiatives in the second year of the Entertainment and Creative Cluster Partnerships Fund.

"Ontario's rapidly growing entertainment and creative cluster makes a significant cultural and economic contribution to the life of the province," said Carroll. "I am delighted that this fund brings together a broad cross-section of Ontario's cultural media organizations to create the kind of innovative solutions that will reinforce their global leadership."

"These 13 initiatives represent 107 companies, institutions and organizations from Ontario's book, film and television, music and interactive digital media cluster," said Shea. "The synergies created by these projects will inspire others and will help shape our burgeoning knowledge economy." OMDC administers the fund on behalf of the Ministry of Culture.

"The support from the OMDC is a significant indicator of the transformation underway in Niagara," said Dr. Jack Lightstone, President of Brock University. "nGen is a business generator and capacity builder in the interactive media sector that will contribute in a very concrete way to the growth of high value-added knowledge-intensive enterprise in Niagara. Brock is proud to be a part of an unprecedented and highly productive collaboration with Niagara College, Silicon Knights, City of St. Catharines, Region of Niagara, Niagara Enterprise Agency and Interactive Ontario that will move this initiative forward for the benefit of both the economy and the culture of our region."

Three of the first interactive projects coming out of nGen include a "serious game" related to the War of 1812, a web-based social networking project promoting the Niagara music scene and an investment attraction tool targeting companies in the digital media sector. Other unique projects include: Toronto Green Screen, an initiative that will enable Toronto (and eventually all Ontario) film and television productions to be independently certified as environmentally friendly; Virtual Music Community, an Ottawa-based project of l'Association des professionnels de la chanson et de la musique (APCM) to help Franco-Ontarian musicians sell music on the Internet using the i-Tunes-linked Select Digital service; and Game ON!, a set of programs and services that brings together Ontario's leading video game industry leaders, educators, trainers and government agencies for the purpose of "powering ON" the Ontario games industry.

For a complete list of projects, please go to OMDC's website at omdc.on.ca.

Ontario Government Increases Film and Television Tax Credits



On December 13, the Minister of Finance announced welcome enhancements to the Ontario Film and Television Tax Credit (OFTTC) and the Ontario Production Services Tax Credit (OPSTC); when enacted they will take effect January 1, 2008. This will help Ontario compete with other jurisdictions, both in Canada and internationally. The enhancements include:

- Increasing OFTTC for domestic productions from 30 to 35 per cent for labour expenditures incurred after December 31, 2007 and before January 1, 2010.
- Continuing the 10 per cent regional bonus for the OFTTC.
- First-time producers remain eligible for an enhanced OFTTC rate of 40 per cent on the first \$240,000 of labour expenditures.
- Increasing the OPSTC from 18 to 25 per cent for labour expenditures incurred after December 31, 2007 and before January 1, 2010; and
- A commitment to work with the film industry to explore ways of advancing financial support for producers to the start of a production.

OMDC Deadlines, News and Supported Events

OMDC is now accepting submissions for the **21st Trillium Book Award** for eligible books published in the 2007 calendar year (note: for the Trillium Book Award for Poetry in French language only, titles are eligible if published in 2006 also, since the Award is given out every two years). Deadline for submissions is January 16, 2008 for titles published by November 2007, with a final deadline of January 30, 2008 for titles published in December 2007. For complete guidelines and submission forms, visit omdc.on.ca.

The **Computer Animation Studios of Ontario (CASO)**, in partnership with OMDC, is undertaking a study profiling the Ontario computer animation industry. Research is currently underway, and OMDC looks forward to a final report this spring.

Jan. 15 | North by Northeast Music Festival and Conference (NXNE) and OMDC Present: **MUSIC MAKES IT**, an Extreme Music Licensing Event for Film, TV, Interactive Digital Media and Music companies. OMDC invites you to the Evening Cocktail Reception and Band Showcase featuring Royal Wood, Sarah Slean and The Sadies, in celebration of the rich pool of Ontario talent from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at The Mod Club Theatre, 722 College St., Toronto. **RSVP to musicmakesit@omdc.on.ca - LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE.** Presented in partnership with CIRPA, CMPA, DOC, IO, PRO and in association with CFPTA-OPP, DGC Ontario and WIFT-T.

Jan. 17-18 | OMDC is pleased to be a Platinum Partner of the inaugural edition of Interactive Ontario's **GameON! Finance** event, a unique investment summit designed to bring investors and games companies together to explore financing possibilities for the games industry. The event will feature an opening reception on January 17 followed by a full day of presentations

from a stellar line up of speakers including Eric Zimmerman from Gamelab, Richard Iwaniuk from BioWare, Tim Gatland from Fund4Games and Jason Della Rocca from the International Game Developers Association. "We are Canada's only event dedicated to game finance," says GameON: Finance Executive Producer Ian Kelso. "The event will explore models from around the world putting together cutting-edge companies with progressive models for investment, both corporate and for projects." Small game development companies with five employees or less can take advantage of a limited number of GameON: Start-up Passes. To register for this event or for more information on the program and confirmed speakers visit gameonfinance.com.

Ontario companies attending **MIDEM** are invited to two OMDC-hosted events: International Advisors Roundtable featuring advisors from Scandinavia, Brazil and China at the Carlton Hotel – La Cote Room from 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 26; the "Toronto, Ontario, Canada Reception" on Sunday, Jan. 27 from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Pavillon Croisette, 42 Bd. de la Croisette. Please RSVP to rsvpmidem@omdc.on.ca.

Mar. 17-20 | **Canada Pavilion at the Hong Kong Film Mart.** For the first time ever there will a national pavilion representing Canada at FILMART. This is an opportunity for Ontario film, TV and new media producers and distributors to leverage a strong brand, access a prime location and traffic, as well as a wide array of services including support for market preparation, on-site services, screening spaces, promotion, marketing and co-production counseling and a networking event. The deadline to apply is January 14. For information contact Ludovic Jaouen at Telefilm: 514-283-0838 ext. 2149 or jaouenl@telefilm.gc.ca.

Ontario @ GDC in Full Force

Ontario companies will be attending the Game Developers Conference (GDC) in San Francisco in full force from February 18 to 22, 2008. GDC is the essential forum for learning, inspiration and networking for the creators of computer, console, handheld, mobile and online games. There are a number of activities taking place at GDC this year for Ontario companies including:

- **Canada Games – Canadian Business Lounge @ GDC 2008**

Organized by Alliance Numeriqc on behalf of the Canadian Interactive Alliance. For \$450 your company will have access to the following benefits: meeting space in the Canada Business Lounge on the GDC Expo Floor, your logo and marketing collateral on display at the Lounge, one free Expo Pass and the ability to save 25 per cent on an early-bird pass. Only 17 spots are available. Companies that have already paid registration fees for GDC may still be able to take advantage of the 25 per cent discount. For more information contact Kathleen Webb at 416-878-8876 or kwebb@sympatico.ca.

- **Canadian Directory**

The Canadian Consulate is assembling a directory of Canadian companies that are exhibiting at or attending GDC 2008. This information will be shared with companies from the US, Asia and the UK via e-mail for business development purposes. If you would like to have your company included in this directory please send an email to Kim Gibson at kgibson@omdc.on.ca and you will receive a GDC Profile Form to complete. The deadline to return this form is January 10 at noon.

Plans for other activities are also underway, including the Hockey Night @ GDC Reception organized by the Consulate General for Canada in San Francisco on February 19.

To stay in the loop on all of these activities please sign up for the Ontario @ GDC contact list by sending an e-mail to Jessica Mills (jmills@omdc.on.ca) listing your company name, company contact, phone number and e-mail. Companies that provide contact information to OMDC will receive periodic updates about activities and services that are being offered to Ontario and/or Canadian companies attending GDC.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Capybara Games** for picking up three nominations for Critter Crunch in the inaugural Independent Games Festival Mobile competition. They were nominated for Achievement In Art, Audio Achievement and IGF Mobile Best Game. Good Luck! The winners will be announced at the Game Developers Conference in San Francisco, February 18 to 22.

Congratulations to **Julie Christie** for her Screen Actors Guild (SAG) award nomination for Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Leading Role for her portrayal of Fiona in *Away From Her*, Sarah Polley's feature film directorial debut.

Adapted for the screen by Polley and based on the short story "The Bear Came Over the Mountain" by celebrated Ontario author Alice Munro, *Away From Her* tells the story of an older couple's awakening to the realities of Alzheimer's disease when Fiona's husband (Gordon Pinsent) places her in a nursing home only to find that her affections have shifted to one of her fellow patients. This latest nomination marks just one of numerous accolades showered upon the Capri Films-distributed film since its world premiere at the 2006 Toronto International Film Festival; the SAG Awards will be handed out on January 27 in Los Angeles and broadcast live on TBS.

Upcoming Events and Industry Deadlines

Jan. 11 | Deadline for **CFC Feature Film Program**. For more information please visit cfccreates.com.

Jan. 11-16 | **North American Media Executive Leadership Program**, Banff, Canada. This program from the International Institute for Television Leadership is targeted at senior executives and the "next generation" of leaders in Canada and the United States. For more information see leadership.tv.

Jan. 17-18 | **GameON: Finance** is an investment forum for the interactive games industry and Canada's first financing conference for the games industry. It's a unique investment summit designed to bring investors and games companies together to explore financing possibilities for the games industry. For more information please visit gameonfinance.com

Jan. 25-27 | **Camp BCAMP**. The BC Association of Magazine Publishers' weekend retreat offers magazine publishers a chance to expand their knowledge about important industry issues and relax and network in beautiful Sidney, BC. For details see bcamp.bc.ca/events_calendar.

Jan. 26-31 | **MIDEM**. The international trade show gathers global music professionals from all sectors to do deals, network, learn and check out new talent. Details at midem.com

Jan. 28 | Deadline for **CFC Film Program** – Writers' Lab, Directors' Lab, Editors' Lab. For more information visit cfccreates.com

Feb. 8-12 | **Magazines Canada School for Circulation 2008**. Premiere training program for circulation professionals. For details and registration, visit magazinescanada.ca.

Feb. 18 | **TELUS Innovation Fund** application deadline. For information see cfccreates.com.

Feb. 27-March 2 | **3rd Canada-Brazil Co-production Forum**, Sao Paulo, Brazil. Statement of Interest and company profiles should be sent ASAP to Katka Selucky at Canadian Heritage/Trade Routes - katka_selucky@pch.gc.ca or 819-953-8563 for more information.

Mar. 19-21 | **Hong Kong Music Fair**. hkmusicfair.tdctrade.com/intro.htm. The Hong Kong Trade Development Council and IFPI (Hong Kong Group) Ltd. IFPI (Hong Kong Group) Ltd., is inviting Canadian music-related companies and talents to participate in Asia's international music expo. Look for the application form online. For further enquiries contact Kitty Ko, Trade Commissioner, the Consulate General of Canada in Hong Kong, at (852) 2847-7448 or e-mail: kitty.ko@international.gc.ca.

March 27-30 | Canada Pavilion at the **Tokyo International Anime Fair 2008 (TAF)**. The Canadian Embassy invites Canadian companies interested in exploring the Japanese and Asian market to display their promotional material or demo their products. The highly subsidized exhibition allows Canadian participants to rent space for a very reasonable fee giving them an excellent opportunity to explore one of the most important animation markets in the world. For more details on TAF please visit tokyoanime.jp/en/. Companies interested in participating in the fair or attending networking events should contact the Trade Commissioner, Stephane-Enric Beaulieu, at 81-3 5412-6232 or stephane.beaulieu@international.gc.ca.

Mar. 28-Apr. 10 | **Greater Toronto Marketing Alliance Executive Business Program** – Asia Program. GTMA is hosting a Trade Mission to Seoul, Osaka and Taipei. Information is available from John C. Jung at 416-360-6701 and jjung@greatertoronto.org and at greatertoronto.org.

Apr. 5-15 | **Magazines Canada School for Professional Publishing** offers an intensive week of seminars on everything a magazine publisher needs to know to run a successful publication. Takes places at Queen's Landing: Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON. For details see magazinescanada.ca.

Upcoming Markets and Festivals

Jan. 17-19	History Makers Summit in New York City. historymakers2008.com.
Jan. 17-27	Sundance Film Festival. Park City, Utah, USA. sundance.org
Jan. 22-24	RealScreen Summit, Washington, DC. realscreensummit.com
Jan. 23-Feb. 3	International Film Festival, Rotterdam, Amsterdam. filmfestivalrotterdam.com
Jan. 26-31	MIDEM, Cannes, France. midem.com
Feb. 6-8	DICE Summit: Design, Innovate, Communicate, Entertainment, Las Vegas. dicesummit.org
Feb. 7-16	Berlin International Film Festival, Berlin, Germany. berlinale.de/en
Feb. 13-15	KidsScreen Summit, New York, USA. kidscreensummit.com/2008
Feb. 19-21	GAME CONNECTION @ GDC. San Francisco, Calif. game-connection.com
Feb. 20-22	CFTPA Prime Time in Ottawa, Ottawa. cftpa.ca
Mar. 1	Canadian Songwriters Hall of Fame Awards, Toronto. cansong.ca
Mar. 5-8	Canadian Music Week, Toronto. www.cmw.net
Mar. 7-16	South By Southwest (SXSW), Austin, Texas. sxsw.com
Mar. 25-27	FICCI-FRAMES Global Convention on the Business of Entertainment, Mumbai, India. ficci-frames.com.
Mar. 26-28	Interactive Content Exchange (ICE) 2008, Toronto. ice08.com
Mar. 27-30	Tokyo International Anime Fair. tokyoanime.jp/en/

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 Reception@omdc.on.ca

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