

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 Celebrates Ontario Film Fund features at TIFF including CAIRO TIME, winner of Best Canadian Feature at TIFF!

CAIRO TIME TIFF Special Presentation



The City of Toronto and Astral Media's The Movie Network Award for Best Canadian Feature Film went to Ruba Nadda for **Cairo Time**, an OMDC Film Funded feature. The Mongrel Media film is written and directed by Ruba Nadda, produced by Daniel Iron (Foundry Films). **Cairo Time** will be released in Canadian theatres on October 9th, 2009. For a full list of all TIFF 09 winners go to: <http://www.tiff.net/press?newsId=675>



OMDC's President & CEO Karen Thorne-Stone with Celebrate Ontario's featured speaker Brigitte Berman (producer/director of **Hugh Hefner: Playboy, Activist and Rebel**), and OMDC's Chair Kevin Shea



(L. to R.) **Leslie My Name is Evil** – producer Leonard Farlinger, actor Ryan Robbins, director Reginald Harkema, actor Gregory Smith

(L. to R.) Emily Holmes (actor, **Year of the Carnivore**), Simone Urdl (producer, **Year of the Carnivore**) Stephen Traynor (Line Producer, **Chloe**), Jennifer Weiss (producer, **Year of the Carnivore** and **Chloe**) and Ali Liebert (actor, **Year of the Carnivore** and, **A Gun to the Head**)



OMDC Board member Marguerite Pigott with director Clement Virgo and OMDC Chair, Kevin Shea



photos by Rick O'Brien

OMDC hosted the fourth annual International Financing Forum (IFF) during TIFF on September 13 & 14.



IFF panelists Ted Hope and Thomas Mai with moderator Mike Goodridge, US editor of *Screen International*. Screen International



IFF one-on-one meeting — producer David Hamilton meets with Caroline Labresco, Sundance Film Festival.

OMDC welcomes two new board members

Nyla Ahmad

Nyla Ahmad is Vice President, New Venture Operations & Strategic Partners for Rogers Communications Inc., which includes Rogers Wireless, Rogers Cable and Rogers Media divisions. Ms. Ahmad is responsible for the high-level business strategy and partnership development for Rogers within large commercial relationships (such as Yahoo, Microsoft, Intel, and Hewlett-Packard) and is also responsible for the development and daily operations of the Rogers New Ventures portfolio of new technology startups.



Always on the cutting edge of new technologies, Ms. Ahmad has a strong background in product development and a proven track record of success. Ms. Ahmad has held several leadership roles at Rogers shaping the company's response to changing market conditions, technological evolution, broadband adoption patterns, and changes in Canadian consumer expectations. Ms. Ahmad is the recipient of Canadian Women in Communications 2009 Technology Innovator Award.

Previously within Rogers, Ms. Ahmad held roles within Rogers Cable and the Internet division of Rogers Media. As Senior Director of Electronic Channels for Rogers Cable, she was responsible for the online services strategy and customer experience for emerging Internet and onDemand technologies. As Vice President of Excite Canada, she oversaw the development of consumer online content and services across broadband, narrowband, and wireless platforms. As Director of Content for Rogers@Home, Ms. Ahmad was responsible for the content development and innovation of Canada's first broadband portal.

Marguerite Pigott

Marguerite is Super Channel's Creative Development Group Lead, overseeing a team of nine development executives nationally, fulfilling the effective disbursement of Super Channel's Creative Development Fund. In addition to her work for Super Channel, Marguerite is Development Executive for Back Alley Films, driving the development of their slate of television projects. Marguerite is also Principal of Megalomedia Productions Inc., a consulting company focusing on script development and project marketability. Recent clients include Seven24, Amaze Film + TV, Michael McGowan and Screen Sirens. She has story edited many films including *One Week*, *Finn on the Fly*, *Poor Boy's Game*, *Walk All Over Me* and *Luna: Spirit of the Whale*. For the Toronto International Film Festival, Marguerite was a Programmer on the Canadian Feature Film Selection Committee for the 2006 and 2007 festivals. Previously, Marguerite was Vice President of Development and Production for Odeon Films, an Alliance Atlantis Company. In this capacity, she oversaw the evaluation, selection, development and production of Canadian projects acquired for distribution. She Executive Produced *Saint Ralph*, *Fubar*, *waydowntown*, *Flower and Garnet* and others. She has taught across Canada and has been a guest speaker at Toronto International Film Festival, Vancouver International Film Festival, Atlantic Film Festival, the Canadian Film Centre, the National Screen Institute and has also sat on numerous juries. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the Ontario Media Development Corporation and of World Literacy of Canada, and she is on the Advisory Board of Reel Canada and of the Humber Media Studies Film and Television Program.



OMDC Research News and Deadline

Dec. 11 | OMDC Research Grant Application Deadline –

The next application deadline for OMDC Research Grants is December 11, 2009. Please be aware that this is the last deadline of the 2009-10 fiscal year. OMDC offers financial support directly to incorporated not-for-profit industry organizations undertaking research initiatives that support or complement the mandate of OMDC. Proposed projects should provide information needed by an industry to further industry development or growth; update, improve or strengthen existing data; address an existing information gap or gaps; or respond to a specific crisis in a sector. Full eligibility requirements and guidelines are outlined in the OMDC Research Grant Guidelines, which can be found on the OMDC website: <http://www.omdc.on.ca/Page5481.aspx>.

Ontario Library Investment Project: Marketing Canadian Books for Ontario Children

OMDC is pleased to announce the release of this OMDC-funded study examining Ontario book publishers' access to school libraries. The research focuses on the Ontario Ministry of Education's Library Investment Project and gathers market intelligence on Ontario school boards' purchasing decision-making process. The report provides Ontario publishers with recommendations on how to market themselves to school libraries. For more information and a complete copy of the study, please visit the OMDC website at <http://www.omdc.on.ca/Page3595.aspx>.

CRTC Notice of Public Hearing on Group-based Approach to Licencing of Television Services

The CRTC is currently conducting a policy proceeding on a group-based approach to the licensing of television services and on certain issues relating to conventional television (CRTC 2009-411). The Commission is seeking comments on the modalities and conditions for group-based broadcaster licensing to be employed at the 2010 English-language broadcaster and 2011 French-language broadcaster licence renewals. OMDC has submitted comments for this proceeding, which can found on the OMDC website at: <http://www.omdc.on.ca/Page3595.aspx>.

Tax Credits News

OMDC is pleased to advise stakeholders that the Ontario Ministry of Finance released an Information Bulletin on September 10th providing additional details about the proposed enhancements to the Ontario Production Services Tax Credit (OPSTC), originally announced on June 29th. The proposed enhancements would expand the expenditures that qualify for the OPSTC. The tax credit rate of 25% would be applied to the qualifying production expenditures incurred after June 30, 2009 in respect of an eligible production. Qualifying production expenditures include: **i)** eligible wage expenditures; **ii)** eligible service contract expenditures; and **iii)** eligible tangible property expenditures. For the Ministry of Finance Information Bulletin, go to: http://www.fin.gov.on.ca/english/publications/bulletins/2009_09_10_filmtax.html

Film and Television stakeholders should be advised that following the posting by Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) of revised guidelines dated March 31st regarding the reasonableness of producer fees, CRA has now also posted Q & A's related to the application of this policy on producer fees. Please see the link to the CRA website: <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/nrrsdnts/flm/pstc-cisp/plcs/qstns-eng.html>

TAX TIP:

OIDMTC's 'interactive digital media' definition is very specific – it does not include products that primarily present, promote, or sell products, services, or companies, nor products that primarily contain streaming video. Online social networking website products are not eligible for OIDMTC, as their purpose is primarily interpersonal communication. For details on the Ontario Interactive Digital Media Tax Credit, go to: <http://www.omdc.on.ca/Page3400.aspx>

Congratulations

On September 21, the fourth annual **Polaris Music Prize** grand jury awarded Toronto band F**ked Up's *The Chemistry of Common Life* with the best album of the last year at a gala ceremony held at Toronto's Concert Hall. Check your local listings this Saturday September 26 to watch the MuchMusic television broadcast of the gala featuring the 10 shortlisted bands. Past winners of The Polaris Music Prize include: Caribou, Patrick Watson and Final Fantasy. For a full shortlist of nominees go to www.polarismusicprize.ca. To listen to the CBC podcast go to: <http://radio3.cbc.ca/>

On September 21, the jury for the **2009 Scotiabank Giller Prize** announced its longlist of books in the running for this year's prize. The jury selected 12 titles out of 96 books, submitted by 39 publishers from every region of Canada. Titles by many Ontario publishers and Ontario writers were on the list including: Margaret Atwood's *The Year of the Flood* (McClelland & Stewart), Martha Baillie's *The Incident Report* (Pedlar Press), Anne Michaels' *The Winter Vault* (McClelland & Stewart), Shani Mootoo's *Valmiki's Daughter* (House of Anansi Press) and Ontario publisher McArthur & Company's book *The Mistress of Nothing* by Kate Pullinger, as well as Ontario author Kim Echlin's *The Disappeared* (Hamish Hamilton/Penguin Canada). For the complete longlist go to www.scotiabankgillerprize.ca. The shortlist will be announced at a press conference in Toronto on Tuesday, October 6 and the winner will be named at an awards ceremony on Tuesday, November 10, 2009.

On August 25, the Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television announced the nominations for the **24th Annual Gemini Awards**, recognizing the year's best in Canadian English-language television. The 2009 Broadcast Gala will take place on Saturday, November 14th in Calgary, Alberta and will be broadcast live on Global and Showcase. The drama *Flashpoint* leads the 2009 Gemini Awards nominations with a record 19 nominations, followed by *The Tudors* with 11 nominations. *Being Erica*, *Diamonds*, *Less Than Kind*, and *The Border* each received 9 nominations. For the complete list of nominations, please visit www.geminiawards.ca.



Flashpoint scores a record 19 Gemini nominations!

Upcoming Events & Industry Deadlines

Sept. 30 & Oct. 31 | Call for applications for Women In The Director's Chair (WIDC) 2010 – Led by award-winning actress, director, producer Helen Shaver (*Castle*, *The Bridge*, *Summer's End*), mid-career women directors advance their story-telling and leadership skills at the acclaimed Women In The Director's Chair Workshop in Banff. ACTRA actors, professional and volunteer crew are also invited to apply.

- WIDC 2010 Director deadline: September 30, 2009
- WIDC 2010 Actor / Crew deadline: October 31, 2009

For more information about applications and scholarships

contact: Carol Whiteman, WIDC Producer

Toll Free: 1-877-913-0747

E: carol@creativewomenworkshops.com

W: www.creativewomenworkshops.com

Oct. 2 | A New Media Gathering, Markham Civic Centre in the town of Markham. OMDC's Director of Industry Development will be participating on a *New Media Technology Panel* and discussion along with SR&ED, Braithwaite Technology Consultants -Bruce Braithwaite, National Research Council-Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC-IRAP) - Angelo Del Duca, Director, Ontario Region and Ontario Centres of Excellence (OCE) - John MacRitchie, Director, Business Development from 8:55 a.m. to 10:10 a.m. Featured topics include *SMEs Connect with IBM* with speaker Robert Antonioni, Leader of Small/Medium Business IBM and *Fast Path - From Code to Consumer* with speaker Willi Powell, Strategic Development Manager of Apple Canada. The half day event will also feature a New Media Success story and networking and networking opportunities. www.iscm.ca/newmedia

Oct. 2 | Deadline for submissions for the Canadian New Media Awards (CNMA). The CNMA's are now officially accepting nominations. The Canadian New Media Awards recognize Canada's digital media best, in 19 prestigious award categories: Canadian innovators, game-changers, digital maestros - individuals and companies - are invited to participate. Check here for the 2009 awards categories:

<http://www.nextmediaevents.com/toronto/cnma.categories.php>

Oct. 14, 29 | CMF Focus Groups, Ontario Locations. The CTF has announced that it will be hosting focus groups across Canada to discuss the development of the Canada Media Fund (CMF). These focus groups are part of the continuing CMF consultation process that began with the CTF's August 6, 2009 virtual town hall. To date, the consultation has included a round of written submissions as well as written comments on those submissions. OMDC participated in the process, providing a written submission to the CTF. To view a copy of OMDC's submission, please visit the OMDC website: <http://www.omdc.on.ca/Page3595.aspx>.

Upcoming Events & Industry Deadlines - continued

The purpose of the upcoming focus groups is to obtain the input and expertise of industry stakeholders as the CTF works to create the policies and programs of the CMF. Discussions at the focus groups will centre on the key policy issues outlined during CTF's virtual town hall. The CTF has prepared detailed briefing notes on the key policy issues that will be discussed at the focus group meetings. These notes can be found on the CTF website. The **Toronto focus group** will take place on **October 14**, from 11:30 am – 4:15 pm (followed by 45 minutes of networking) at the Old Mill & Spa in the Guild Room, 21 Old Mill Road, in Etobicoke, ON. The **focus group for French Producers Outside Quebec** will take place in Ottawa on **October 29**, from 11:30 am – 4:15 pm (followed by 45 minutes of networking) at the Fairmont Château Laurier in the Quebec Suite, 1 Rideau Street, Ottawa, ON. If you are interested in participating in either of these events, please see the Focus Group Invitation at the following link, and fill out the registration form.

<http://www.ctf-fct.ca/pressreleases/Invitation.pdf>

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Rachel Coley, Administration Manager, at rcoley@ctf-fct.ca or by phone at 1-877-975-0766.

Oct. 27-28 | GameON: Finance 2009, Toronto. Industry experts will explore strategies surrounding funding opportunities including venture capital, angel investment, project financing, and public and private equity. GameON: Finance offers great networking opportunities, exceptional value and unmatched industry insight into the world of video game financing and investment. Info at <http://www.gameonfinance.com/>

Oct. 29 | Submission deadline: Berlinale Co-Production Market again launches its search for co-production partners and co-financing partners at the Berlinale 2010. Until October 29, 2009, experienced producers may submit projects that have budgets between two and ten million euros; at least 30% of the funding has to be in place. The projects must also be suited to international co-production.

At the 7th *Berlinale Co-Production Market* (February 14-16, 2010), the producers of the 35 selected projects will meet with interested potential co-producers, financiers, sales agents, and international distributors. The *Berlinale Co-Production Market* team will put together a personalised schedule of meetings for each of the 450 participants, a schedule that not only coordinates when each party is available, but above all makes sure the projects and partners found for each other are a good fit. Among the most successful projects completed this year were *Lost Persons Area* (directed by Caroline Strubbe) and *Amreeka* (directed by Cherien Dabis); they won the SACD Screenplay Award and the FIPRESCI Prize in Cannes, respectively.

Over 80 films have been realized since the *Berlinale Co-Production Market* was first launched in 2004 – in other words, 40% of the projects envisioned have already been completed. This includes films like Sergei Bodrov's *Mongol*, which was nominated for an Academy Award in 2008; Alexandr Sokurov's *The Sun*; as well as the crossover success *Lemon Tree* by Eran Riklis, which was shown in the Berlinale *Panorama* in 2008 and has since been screened in over 20 countries. Main partners of the Berlinale Co-Production Market have been the MDM – Mitteldeutsche Medienförderung (since 2004) and the MEDIA-Programme of the European Union (since 2005). The project submission forms and selection criteria for 2010 are available at: http://www.efm-berlinale.de/en/copromarket/participation/project_submission/project-submission.php.

Nov. 3-4 | The DIG London Game Developers Conference is now open for Registration! DIG London will be held in London, Ontario, Canada and feature excellent speakers and panels as well as a gala dinner & keynote presentation. Check out confirmed speakers and watch the site for new speaker announcements each week! Register now at: <http://conf.diglondon.ca/>

Nov. 15 | Early bird deadline for submissions for the Santa Cruz Film Festival. Final deadline for submissions is February 15, 2010. Honoring today's most creative independent filmmakers, SCFF will present Audience Awards for Narrative Feature, Documentary Feature, International Film, Short Narrative, Short Documentary, Animated Work, Experimental Work, Student-Produced Work, Youth-Produced Work and Locally-Produced Work. Jury Prizes are awarded in the Narrative Feature, Documentary Feature and Emerging Filmmaker categories. http://www.santacruzfilmfestival.org/2010_callforentries.html.

The Festival is proud to continue its partnership with the **EarthVision Environmental Film Festival**. SCFF commits a portion of its programming to raising environmental awareness and bringing key environmental issues to the forefront. The EarthVision Environmental Film section includes audience awards in a number of categories and includes the EarthVision Environmental Film Jury Prize. Visit <http://www.santacruzfilmfestival.org/earthvision.html> for more information.

Dec. 1 | Nominations deadline for The Premier's Award for Excellence in the Arts. The award recognizes outstanding achievement and contribution to arts and culture in Ontario, over a significant period of time. The award is conferred in two categories: one for an individual artist and one for an arts organization. Anyone can nominate and the deadline is December 1, 2009. More information and application forms can be found at: <http://www.arts.on.ca/Page1682.aspx>

Upcoming Awards, Markets and Festivals

Sept. 30-Oct. 4	Pop Montreal , Montreal, QC. www.popmontreal.com
Oct. 2	A New Media Gathering , Markham Civic Centre, 101 Town Centre Blvd, Markham, ON. \$35 to register: www.iscm.ca/newmedia
Oct. 2-5	MIPCOM Junior , Cannes, France. www.mipworld.com
Oct. 5-9	MIPCOM , Cannes, France. www.mipworld.com
Oct. 5-6	9th Annual International Film & TV Finance Summit , New York City, NY. www.atlas-sfi.com/film
Oct. 6	2009 Scotiabank Giller Prize Shortlist Press conference announcement , Toronto, ON. www.scotiabankgillerprize.ca
Oct. 8 & 10	Abilities Arts Festival , Toronto, ON. www.abilitiesartsfestival.org/schedule/2009filmcall
Oct. 14-18	Ottawa International Film Festival , Ottawa, ON. www.animationfestival.ca
Oct. 15-18	Ontario Council of Folk Festival Conference , Ottawa, ON. www.ocff.ca
Oct. 19-20	Gemini Industry Award Galas , Toronto, ON. www.academy.ca
Oct. 21-31	International Festival of Authors (IFOA) , Harbourfront, ON. www.readings.org
Oct. 24	Director's Guild of Canada (DGC) Awards , Fairmont Royal York Hotel, Toronto, ON. www.dgc.ca
Oct. 27-28	GameON: Finance 2009 , Toronto, ON. www.gameonfinance.com
Oct. 31 - Nov. 3	Association of Film Commissioners International's (AFCI) Cineposium International Conference 09 , Sheraton Universal, Universal City, CA. www.afci.org
Nov. 3	Digital Interactive Gaming DIG London , London, ON. http://conf.diglondon.ca/
Nov. 10	2009 Scotiabank Giller Prize Gala Dinner at the Four Seasons Hotel , Toronto, ON. www.scotiabankgillerprize.ca
Nov. 11-15	13th Annual Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival , Toronto, ON. www.reelasian.com
Nov. 12-15	Windsor International Film Festival , Windsor, ON. www.windsorfilmfestival.ca
Nov. 14	24th Annual Gemini Awards Broadcast Gala , Calgary, AB. www.academy.ca
Nov. 19	22nd International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA) , Netherlands. www.dfgdocs.com/Festivals/International_Documentary_Festival_Amsterdam_(IDFA).aspx

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

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

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