

OMDC NEWSLETTER

We've got it going



ONTARIO MEDIA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION Promoting growth and investment in Ontario's
book and magazine publishing, film and television, music and interactive digital media industries

SEPTEMBER 2011

OMDC Celebrates Ontario at 2011 TIFF®

OMDC-Supported feature *Edwin Boyd* wins *The Skyy Vodka Award for Best Canadian First Feature Film* at TIFF



Edwin Boyd



Congratulations to *Edwin Boyd*'s director/writer Nathan Morlando (left) and producer Allison Black (right) on their award



Sarah Polley, producer/director/writer of *Take This Waltz* speaking at Celebrate Ontario



OMDC's President & CEO, Karen Thorne-Stone with Don McKellar, Sarah Polley, OMDC's Chair Kevin Shea and Susan Cavan



Musician Carl Dixon performs at *Celebrate Ontario*



388 Arletta Avenue filmmaking team: producer Mark Smith, writer/director Randall Cole and producer Steven Hoban



Leonard Farlinger, writer/director of *I'm Yours*



I'm Yours – actor Rossif Sutherland with producer Jennifer Jonas



Nicholas Gray and Dorigen Fode with Toronto Film Commissioner Peter Finestone



Michael A. Dobbin, producer of *The Maiden Danced To Death*, with Ontario Deputy Minister of Tourism and Culture Steven Davidson



Rush: Beyond the Lighted Stage's documentary duo Sam Dunn and Scott McFadyen of Banger Films



Judy and Paul Bronfman, OMDC Board Member / Chairman and CEO of Comweb Group Inc. and William F. White International Inc. and Chairman of Pinewood Toronto Studios Inc. with Don Carmody, Executive Producer of DCP and producer of *Breakaway*



Whizbang Films' Penny McDonald and Frank Siracusa, producer of *Breakaway*



OMDC Board Member Leesa Levinson, Executive Director of Lights, Camera, Access!



Conquering Lion Pictures' Damon D'Oliveira

Photos by Rick O'Brien



Alcina Pictures' Paul Barkin, writer/director Nicole Brending and Robert Profusek



Amy George's filmmaking team: music producer Lev Lewis with co-producers/directors, Yonah Lewis and Calvin Thomas

OMDC is pleased to announce that we have surpassed 1,000 followers for our Twitter account, @OMDCTweets! We're keeping the public informed about Ontario's cultural industries and making valuable connections in various communities.

You can also follow our francophone Twitter account at http://twitter.com/OMDC_FR



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Canadian and European producers join forces at 2011 PLT at TIFF



Following a successful kick-off at last year's Toronto International Film Festival®, a group of **12 Canadian and 12 European producers** were selected to participate in **2011 Producers Lab Toronto (PLT)** to discuss the financial, creative and technical potential of Canadian-European co-productions. This platform was created by **European Film Promotion (EFP)** in partnership with the **Ontario Media Development Corporation (OMDC)** and the **Toronto International Film Festival®**. It included pitching sessions,

one-to-one-meetings, case studies, analyses and presentations of financing sources and co-production structures headed by international experts from the film industry. Financial support comes from the Media Mundus programme of the European Union, the participating EFP member organizations, the OMDC and TIFF.

Producers Lab Toronto 2011 participants

Back row from left to right: Cher Hawrysh (Phenomenal Films, Canada), Byron A. Martin (Byron A. Martin Productions, Canada), Sean Buckley (Buck Productions, Canada), Nicolas Comeau (1976 Productions, Canada), Álvaro Alonso (Jaleo Films, Spain), Jean du Toit (Buffalo Gal Pictures, Canada), Michael A. Dobbin (Quiet Revolution Pictures, Canada), Anne Walser (C-Films, Switzerland), Joseph Berger (Pitchstream Media, Canada), Riina Sildos (Amrion Production, Estonia), Félize Frappier (Max Films, Canada)

Middle row from left to right: Chantal Lafleur (Productions La Fête, Canada), Ieva Norvilienė (Tremora, Lithuania), Muniré Armstrong (YN Films, Canada), Karin Annell (for Mario Gianani, Wildside, Italy), Tristan Orpen Lynch (Subotica, Ireland), Leah Jaunzems (Darius Films, Canada), Stella Nwimo (Northpoint Pictures, UK), Viktória Petrányi (Proton Cinema, Hungary), Karla Stojáková (Axman Production, Czech Republic)

Front row from left to right: Alison Reid (Free Spirit Films, Canada), Mariano Vanhoof (Fobic Films, Belgium), Gregory Athanasiou (Minus Pictures, Greece), Daniel Mitulescu (Strada Film, Romania)

Congratulations to Ottawa Producer Michael A. Dobbin (Quiet Revolution Pictures) who inked a development and production deal for Geoffrey Enthoven's dark comedy **Winnipeg** to be written by Pierre de Clercq with Belgian producer Mariano Vanhoof (Fobic Films) at this year's PLT. The international partnership will see the English-language project developed and packaged for production some time in 2013.



Photo by Rick O'Brien

OMDC's 6th Annual IFF during TIFF Put The Spotlight on Co-Pro Potential For Producers

Sept.11-12, OMDC presented the **6th annual International Financing Forum** (IFF) during the 36th Toronto International Film Festival®. The event is a competitive feature film co-financing market that brought together **41 selected Canadian and international producers** developing English language projects, to network and do



Photo by Rick O'Brien

(L to R) **IFF 2011 *How Attractive is Your Package?*** panel moderator Screen International's Mike Goodrich with panelists Chris Hastings (1066 Productions), Mark Ankner (William Morris Endeavor) and Christine Vachon (Killer Films)

business with each other and with high-level film industry executives from over 30 companies including international sales agents, financiers, distributors, agents, and executive producers. Attendees included: representatives from Bankside, Bavaria Films, Blue Ice Film, eOne Entertainment, Film 4, ICM, Killer Films, Magnolia, Participant Media, Pathé, Match Factory, ICM, Studio Canal, Trust Nordisk, Wild Bunch, and a number of other top companies. Seven hundred meetings were scheduled for IFF 2011: 270 producer-to-producer meetings; 420 executive-to-producer meetings; 135 executive-to-producer roundtable meetings.

OMDC and TIFF thank our IFF 2011 returning partners for their support including: Telefilm Canada, U.K. Trade and Investment, Astral's The Harold Greenberg Fund, The Toronto Film and Television Office (TFTO), and Canada Film Capital. We are pleased to welcome our new partner, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada (DFAIT).



TIFF and OMDC launch TIFF Nexus

TIFF and OMDC formally launched **TIFF Nexus**, an OMDC Entertainment and Creative Cluster Partnerships Fund-supported initiative designed to bring the worlds of feature film and interactive games together with a variety of events over the coming months.

OMDC's President and CEO, Karen Thorne-Stone (centre), with Artistic Director of TIFF Bell Lightbox, Noah Cowan (left), and Director of Public Programmes at TIFF Bell Lightbox, Shane Smith (right), at the OMDC-sponsored Sales Office / TIFF Nexus Reception on Wednesday September 14.



photo by James Weyman

OMDC Program Deadlines

Entertainment and Creative Cluster Partnerships Fund

- September 28, 2011 – Deadline for Applications

OMDC Research Grant Deadline

- September 26, 2011

OMDC Film Fund

- November 1, 2011 – Deadline For Applications

Ongoing | OMDC's Industry Development Program now incorporates the previous OMDC Trade Organization Support and Domestic Markets and Events programs. The program offers financial and, where appropriate, strategic support to established trade and event organizations that are undertaking initiatives that provide business growth and business development opportunities for Ontario cultural media companies. Guidelines are now posted on our [website](#). For further information contact: programs@omdc.on.ca



Tax Credits Have Gone Green - Get Online!

In an effort to streamline our tax credit administration process, please note that as of April 1, 2011, the OMDC has implemented a mandatory policy that all OMDC tax credit applications must be submitted via our Online Application Portal. All necessary supporting documentation must also be submitted via the online process or the application won't be accepted.

See below or visit our website www.omdc.on.ca for upcoming WebEx training dates for how to use the Online Application Portal.

WebEx Training for OMDC Online Application Portal

WebEx training sessions are still available for OMDC's Online Application Portal (OAP):

- Tuesday, October 18, 2:00-3:00 pm
- Wednesday, November 16, 2:00-3:00 pm
- Wednesday, December 14, 2:00-3:00 pm

To register for a training session, please visit [our website](#)

OAP Quick Tip

Is the status of your company still “Pending OMDC Confirmation”? If so, be sure to complete and send in your Signing Officer Delegation of Corporate Administrator and Portal User Form today! The form can be found on the OMDC website [here](#). If you have any questions regarding company registration and account setup, contact the OAP Helpdesk at applyhelp@omdc.on.ca.

OMDC Industry Profiles

OMDC regularly updates our [Industry Profiles](#). We are currently updating the Book Industry Profile, and will be undertaking an update of the Music Industry Profile next. If you have any information or good news stories for the Book or Music profiles that would assist us in our update, please contact Jen Brown: jbrown@omdc.on.ca.

OMDC-Sponsored Research

OMDC-sponsored study gaminginc: [Toronto Gaming Incubator Feasibility Study](#) was undertaken by the Centre for Arts & Design at George Brown College. The study surveyed the space and resources needs of Toronto's small and medium game design companies to determine if a collaborative incubator approach was a viable means of addressing the needs of the digital media industry. You can find this report in OMDC's [online research library](#).

The [Mobile Experience Innovation Centre](#) (MEIC) is calling upon content producers with mobile offerings to complete their [2011 Mobile Innovation Survey](#). With support from the [OMDC Research Grant](#)

Program, MEIC is producing a profile of Ontario's mobile content, services, and application companies. By participating in the survey you will help quantify Ontario's mobile media industry and demonstrate its importance to the province's economy.

Industry Research

A 2010 report by the Department of Canadian Heritage, **Study of the Canadian K to 12 Educational Book Publishing Sector**, looks at challenges faced by the Canadian educational publishing sector, especially as pertains to publishers creating books for the kindergarten to grade 12 segment.

Free Professional Training with Sheridan - Spaces still available!

Sheridan Corporate, in participation with CASO and the Ontario Media Development Corporation, is offering an opportunity to a select few to participate in free professional training for a series of pilot programs designed to support animation professionals. These pilot courses are designed as pilot programs for the animation industry with support from OMDC's Entertainment and Creative Cluster Partnerships Fund. Don't miss this one-time opportunity to participate in these programs for free! **For more information or to sign up, contact Ben McEvoy at ben@benmcevoy.com or SheridanCorporate at sheridancorporate@sheridanc.on.ca**

Spaces are still available for:

Sat. Oct. 1 & Oct. 15 | *Effective Employee Onboarding* Are you or any of your staff responsible for bringing new talent on board in your studio? This 2-day training session explores effective methods for bringing new staff on board and up to speed in your studio as effectively as possible. Ideal participants bring 4+ years' experience.

Sat. Oct. 29 | *Understanding the Production Lifecycle* An excellent introduction to understanding the 'bigger picture' in the animation industry. Learn from industry veterans how animation projects are made from the very beginning through to the final distribution. This 1-day course is excellent for junior animation professionals with 1 - 2 years' experience who are looking to gain a better understanding of the industry and how it works from a business perspective for a competitive advantage. Spaces are limited.

Sat. Nov.12 | *Diagnosing the Pipeline* Drawing from years of extensive research and experience in 'Process Improvement Methodologies', this course will explore how to apply PIM to production pipelines in any animation studio. This 1-day course will introduce various concepts in PIM and how they can be effectively applied in a studio pipeline to increase efficiency and output. Participants should have experience managing production pipelines - spaces are limited.

Call For Nominations – Awards For Outstanding Achievement In The Creative Industries

Nominations for the 2012 **Premier's Award for Excellence in the Arts** are open. Now is the time to celebrate the great work of artists and arts organizations that are building Ontario's entertainment and creative cluster.

You can nominate established artists and arts organizations engaged in a variety of disciplines – including (but not limited to) literature, media arts, music, theatre, visual arts or cultural industries, such as book and magazine publishing, digital media, film, television and sound recording. Author Dennis Lee, composer R. Murray Schaffer and media arts organizations Hot Docs and Vtape were a few of the **2011 finalists**.

The award is conferred in two categories: an individual artist award of \$35,000 and an arts organization award of \$50,000. Details about the awards and nomination forms are on the **[Ontario Arts Council website](#)**. The Ontario Arts Council administers the selection process for the awards on behalf of the Government of Ontario.

The awards salute Ontario artists and arts organizations for outstanding achievements over a significant period of time – creative achievements that have helped drive innovation, market cultural products and make Ontario one of North America's top entertainment and media economies.

This is your chance to show your support to an artist or arts organization whose creative vision and extraordinary contributions deserve to be in the spotlight. Nominations are due December 1, 2011.

Upcoming OMDC-Supported Events

Oct. 13-16 | The 25th Anniversary of Ontario Council of Folk Festivals (OCFF) will be held in Niagara Falls over four days and three night with over 800 delegates attending.

Oct. 19-30 | The International Festival of Authors (IFOA) brings together the best writers of contemporary world literature for 12 days of readings, interviews, lectures, round table discussions, and public book signings each October. The IFOA presents a number of special events including readings by Scotiabank Giller Prize, Governor General's Literary Awards, and Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize finalists, as well as the awarding of the Harbourfront Festival Prize.

Oct. 23-25 | OMDC is proud to support WIFT-T's Women in Digital Media Summit & Speakers' Series, a two-year initiative designed to promote and celebrate women in the digital media industry. This October 23 -25, digital and traditional media professionals from around the world will come together in beautiful **Stratford, Ontario**, to explore hot issues and innovation in gaming, mobile, social media, cross-media and transmedia. Designed for content producers and decision-makers, the **International Women in Digital Media Summit (iWDMS)** is set to explore such topics as policy development, emerging trends and business models, and the role of women in digital media globally. **[Click here to register](#)**

Oct. 24-26 | X-Summit X marks the spot where interactive digital media innovators meet, collaborate, partner and learn. This two-day business intelligence conference focuses on the areas where cross-media converge; enabling content producers to better tell their stories seamlessly across multiple platforms. X-Summit embraces innovation and explores the future of cross-media content through active learning, hands-on workshops, round-table discussions, concise presentations, dynamic panel discussions and cutting-edge demonstrations. A departure from typical formats, this next-generation conference will inspire and challenge, outfitting participants with tangible takeaways, fresh ideas to consider and new opportunities to explore. X-Summit's thought-provoking and future-oriented content offers insights from outstanding speakers from across the globe who will share their experience, knowledge and strategic foresight, providing valuable insights into the constantly evolving world of cross-media. X-Summit is an unparalleled opportunity for content creators to collaborate with interactive media professionals in a world-class conference setting.

Oct. 26-30 | Digifest is Toronto's international festival celebrating innovation and digital creativity. The festival brings together some of the world's best and brightest to showcase next-generation digital art & design. Established and emerging designers, technologists and artists will come together during Digifest for presentations, incredible demos, interactive exhibitions and parties.

Oct. 28 | Innovation Day @ Digifest 2011, a day-long industry conference held at TIFF Bell Lightbox consisting of presentations, panels, demos and other activities focused on locative media. TIFF Nexus in partnership with Digifest 2011.

Nov. 4-6 | The Toronto-based independent record label Six Shooter Records will present the inaugural

Sleepwalk Guitar Festival. Shauna de Cartier, the label's president, describes the festival as “an education and celebration of all things guitar.” The Sleepwalk Guitar Festival will bring together trailblazers and standard-bearers of excellence from across genres and across North America. Sleepwalk's namesake is the instantly familiar (and Billboard chart topper) instrumental composed by Santo and Johnny Farina. See the original, (and still definitive version) performed by the brothers [here](#).

The first Sleepwalk will welcome **Afie Jurvanen, Amos Garrett, Andrew Dickson, Brent Mason, Christine Bougie, Colin James, Danny Michel, Duke Robillard, Gordon Lewis, Grant Siemens, Ian Blurton, J Mascis, James Robertson, Jay Nowicki, Kurt Swinghammer, Luke Doucet & The White Falcon, Melissa McClelland, Redd Volkaert, Richard Lloyd Trio** and **The Sadies**, with more to come. The festival will include full concerts, workshops, clinics and interviews. Location: The Great Hall, 1087 Queen St. W at Dovercourt, Toronto. Cost: \$75.00 (weekend pass) to \$25.00 (individual sessions). Tickets go on sale on Sept. 19 at **[Six Shooter Records](#)**. For info go to: **[Sleepwalk Guitar](#)**

Nov. 10 | Interactive Ontario's **[iLunch Series 10.0](#)** will consist of case studies followed by panel discussions that seek to examine successful business practices and strategies. At an iLunch session delegates will learn about forward-thinking strategies, have the opportunity for Q & A with the panellists and network with potential business contacts in an informal setting. The theme of this year's iLunch 10.0 is “Top 10”, in honour of the 10th anniversary of the series. Interactive Ontario will present five instalments that will focus on the idea of ten ways to build your business. The iLunch series will be five three-hour sessions running from November 2011 to March 2012 at the Gladstone Hotel in Toronto. These sessions, from 11:00am to 2:00pm, will include pre- and post-session networking time, as well as programmed content and a catered lunch. Get your seasons pass now and save!

On September 20, the finalists for the **The Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Prize for Non-Fiction**, Canada's richest non-fiction award, with a top prize of \$60,000 were announced. The winner will be announced on October 25th in Toronto. Ontario authors who are finalists for this prize include:

- Ray Robertson, ***Why Not? Fifteen Reasons to Live*** (Ontario publisher Biblioasis)
- Charles Foran, ***Mordecai: The Life & Times*** (Knopf Canada)
- Richard Gwyn, ***Nation Maker: Sir John A. Macdonald: His Life, Our Times; Volume Two: 1867-1891*** (Random House Canada)



Photo courtesy of TIFF

Leone Stars co-directors Ngardy Conteh and Allan Tong during their presentation at Pitch This!

Congratulations to **Ngardy Conteh, Walter Forsyth** and **Allan Tong**, the winners of this year's **Telefilm Canada PITCH THIS! competition** at TIFF for their project ***Leone Stars***.

Congratulations to the following Ontario authors and/or publishers who have been named on the longlist for the **Scotiabank Giller Prize**. Ontario authors and publishers are highlighted below. The shortlist will be announced on October 4th, 2011:

- **Clark Blaise, *The Meagre Tarmac*** (Biblioasis)
- **Lynn Coady, *The Antagonist*** (House of Anansi Press)
- **Patrick DeWitt, *The Sisters Brothers*** (House of Anansi Press)
- **Esi Edugyan, *Half-Blood Blues*** (Thomas Allen Publishers)
- **Suzette Mayr, *Monoceros*** (Coach House Books)
- **Michael Ondaatje, *The Cat's Table*** (McClelland & Stewart)
- **Guy Vanderhaeghe, *A Good Man*** (McClelland & Stewart)
- **David Bezmozgis, *The Free World*** (HarperCollins Canada)
- **Wayne Johnston, *A World Elsewhere*** (Knopf Canada)

Congratulations to **House of Anansi** and their authors who are finalists for the **Man Booker Prize**; ***The Sisters Brothers*** by Patrick deWitt and ***Pigeon English*** by Stephen Kelman.

Our congratulations to the five finalists for the **2011 Toronto Book Awards**. The winner will be announced on October 13, 2011.

- James FitzGerald for his memoir ***What Disturbs Our Blood***, published by Random House Canada
- James King for his novel ***Étienne's Alphabet***, published by Ontario publisher Cormorant Books Inc.
- Rabindranath Maharaj for his novel ***The Amazing Absorbing Boy***, published by Knopf Canada
- Nicholas Ruddock for his novel ***The Parabolist***, published by Doubleday Canada
- Alissa York for her novel ***Fauna***, published by Random House Canada

Congratulations to all the 26th Gemini Award Winners!

The **26th Annual Gemini Awards**, celebrating the best in Canadian English-language television and digital media were awarded on **August 30**, **August 31** and **September 7**, 2011.

Here are just a few 2011 Gemini Ontario Highlights:

Call Me Fitz, eOne and Amaze + Film and Television - 7 Gemini Awards

The Borgias, Take 5 Productions Inc. - 4 Gemini Awards

Degrassi, Epitome Pictures - 3 Gemini Awards

The Kennedys, Muse Entertainment - 3 Gemini Awards

Flashpoint, Avamar Entertainment Inc. - 3 Gemini Awards

The Tudors, Take 5 Productions Inc. - 2 Gemini Awards

Glenn Martin DDS, Cuppa Coffee Animation and Design - 1 Gemini Award

Being Erica, Temple Street Productions - 1 Gemini Award



Call Me Fitz

Upcoming Industry Deadlines

Ongoing | **Unison Benevolent Fund** announced that it is well on its way to becoming fully operational. With generous donations of \$250,000 from both Music Canada (formerly CRIA), and Slight Music, Unison is on target to achieve their \$1M funding goal, which is the benchmark set for the organization to become operational. The Unison Benevolent Fund is an assistance and referral program – created and administered for the music industry, by the music industry. Unison is designed to provide discreet relief to music industry personnel in times of personal hardship and crisis. The first two priorities for Unison are the Emergency Relief Fund and the creation of a counseling service, similar to the Employee Assistance Programs often available to staff of larger organizations. Details on the launch of these services will be announced soon. Those who are interested in: learning more about the Unison Benevolent Fund, making a donation, finding out how to help the cause, or accessing Unison's services are encouraged to visit www.unisonfund.ca and register.

Chiptunes Orchestra at Nuit Blanche 2011



The 2011 edition of Toronto's all-night-art-thing, Nuit Blanche, will see Cinema 1 of TIFF Bell Lightbox filled to the brim with bits, bytes, and beats as a mix of live music and giant-screen video games come together on stage.

Upcoming Awards, Festivals and Markets

Sept. 28	Writers' Trust Finalists Announcement , Toronto, ON. www.writerstrust.com
Sept. 29-Oct.14	Vancouver International Film Festival (VIFF) , Vancouver, BC. www.viff.org/
Oct. 1	Scotiabank Nuit Blanche , Toronto, ON. www.scotiabanknuitblanche.ca/
Oct. 3-6	MIPCOM , Cannes, France. www.mipworld.com/
Oct.12-16	Frankfurt Book Fair , Frankfurt, Germany. www.buchmesse.de/en/fbf/
Oct. 13-14	Planet in Focus: International Environmental Film & Video Festival , Toronto, ON. www.planetinfocus.org
Oct. 13-16	The 25th Anniversary of Ontario Council of Folk Festivals (OCFF) , Niagara Falls, ON. www.ocff.ca
Oct. 19-30	International Festival of Authors (IFOA) Readings at Harbourfront , Toronto, ON. www.readings.org/?q=ifoa
Oct. 23-25	WIFT-T's Women in Digital Media Summit , Stratford, ON. wift.com/digital-summit/
Oct. 24-26	Interactive Ontario's X-Summit , Toronto, ON. www.x-summit.com
Oct. 25	Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Prize for Non-Fiction Winner Announcement , Toronto, ON. www.writerstrust.com/Awards/Hilary-Weston-Writers-Trust-Prize.aspx
Oct. 26-30	Digifest , Toronto, ON. torontodigifest.ca/2011/
Oct. 29	Annual 2011 DGC Awards , Toronto, ON. www.dgc.ca/page.php?id=101
Nov. 1	10th Annual Writers' Trust Awards Winner's Announcement , Toronto, ON. www.writerstrust.com
Nov. 4-6	Sleepwalk Guitar Festival , Great Hall, Toronto, ON. www.sleepwalkguitar.com
Nov. 8	Scotiabank Giller Prize Award Winner Announcement , Toronto, ON. www.scotiabankgillerprize.ca/
Nov. 8-13	15th Anniversary of Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival , Toronto, ON. www.reelasian.com/

Nov. 16-17	DIG London (Digital Interactive Gaming), London, ON. diglondon.ca
Nov. 16-27	International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA), Amsterdam, Holland. www.idfa.nl/industry.aspx
Nov. 18-19	15th Anniversary of Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival, Richmond Hill, ON. www.reelasian.com/
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