

MEDIA RELEASE

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SASKFILM NAMES FIRST SCREENWRITER IN RESIDENCE

New SaskFilm program designed to provide aspiring scriptwriters an opportunity to prepare scripts for the Canadian and international market

November 2, 2004 (Regina, SK) – The Saskatchewan Film and Video Development Corporation (SaskFilm) is pleased to announce that Saskatoon-based writer Bill Boyle (*Now and Forever*) will serve as the province's first screenwriter-in-residence. Administered by SaskFilm, the new Screenwriter-in-Residence Program is designed to develop, train and increase the profile of the screenwriting community in Saskatchewan.

"I am very excited to be a part of SaskFilm's Screenwriter-in-Residence Program. I believe through this program the quality and stature of Saskatchewan screenplays can rise to level of critical acclaim that already exists amongst our novelists and poets," commented Mr. Boyle.

Mr. Boyle will lead a group of Saskatchewan-based screenwriters through the stages of development, story consultations and script editing over a 10 month period. He will work with successful applicants to deliver completed scripts within pre-set time limits and teach them the intricacies of packaging and selling a script. The participants will be selected by an independent jury and announced at a later date.

"Saskatchewan is renowned for its vibrant writing community and prolific storytelling traditions," says Valerie Creighton, C.E.O and Film Commissioner of SaskFilm. "This one-of-a-kind program will serve as a catalyst to Saskatchewan screenwriting talent and promote our stories to the Canadian and international marketplace."

About Bill Boyle:

Originally from Saskatchewan, Bill Boyle received his university education at the University of Saskatchewan. Over the past twenty-five years he has been involved in various capacities of the film industry. For six years he was the Executive Director of the Toronto Film Makers Co-operative and sat on the executive board of the Council of Canadian Film Makers for three. He was in charge of the 'alternate film' programming series for the first two years of the Toronto Film Festival and has been a juror on the Canadian Film Awards. Boyle was nominated for an Etrog; the predecessor of the Gemini's for his _ hour drama, "*Scales*" and won special recognition at the Chicago Film Festival, for a short drama starring Lynne Griffin, titled "*With These Hands*".

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As a screenwriter, Bill Boyle has received a Harold Greenberg Fund grant and was nominated for an ACTRA Award (Nellie) for his 90-minute CBC drama, "*Crossbar*". After a lengthy detour as a Talent Manager, he returned to screenwriting in 1994. His first script "*Sealed With A Kiss*" was immediately optioned and then produced in 1996 and "*The End of The Sooline*", currently in its treatment stage was optioned by Minds Eye in 2001.

Taking a turn at directing once more, Boyle wrote and directed the half-hour drama, "*Photo Justice*", for Forward Step Productions. In 1999, he completed his third screenplay "*Now & Forever*" which was optioned by WIC Entertainment and produced in 2001 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Directed by Bob Clark, it starred Mia Kirshner, Adam Beach, Gordon Tootosis and Theresa Russell, the very actors who Boyle had envisioned as he wrote the script. *Now and Forever* won the Outstanding Canadian Feature award at the ReelWorld Film Festival in Toronto in 2003.

SaskFilm and Video Development Corporation (SaskFilm) enables the film, television and interactive industry in Saskatchewan to continually enhance the quality, quantity and marketability of its products and resources. SaskFilm was established to stimulate and foster the development of an indigenous film, video and interactive industry through the administration of the Saskatchewan Film Employment Tax Credit Program; managing the state of the art Canada/Saskatchewan Production Studios; and by providing financial assistance to qualified production companies for purposes of developing, producing and distributing film, video and interactive products. Visit www.saskfilm.com and www.saskstudios.com.

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