

SASKFILM CLIPS

NOVEMBER 2010

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

The past year was one of challenge and change, compelling a renewed focus for SaskFilm and many of our partners within the film and television industry.

Internally, we had some team changes. Kerry Fraser, our Communications and Marketing Officer, departed to take on new opportunities. In her place we now have Shelley Fayant, who comes to us with a blend of experience that includes both private

of Development. In addition to providing locations support, Tobi will be taking on an increased role in the marketing of the province as a first-class filming destination, working alongside Shelley. And lastly, Charlene Hilkewich is taking on greater responsibility as Initiatives and Policy Manager.

Recent months have seen many of our home-grown productions seeking and capturing the limelight with well-received

In September, SaskFilm and Vértité took advantage of the amazing sets designed and built by the talented craftspeople that call Saskatchewan home by hosting a tour of *InSecurity* for invited Cabinet members, who by all accounts, enjoyed the experience tremendously. We will continue to work to educate and inform both elected and government officials within our province about the valuable economic and cultural benefits Saskatchewan receives through production that takes place here.

SaskFilm was given the opportunity, through the 2010/2011 annual budgetary process which is currently underway, to identify challenges and opportunities facing the sector. We will continue to work with our colleagues, both within government and the film and television industry, to ensure maximum impact through available resources.

Lastly, as in previous years, SaskFilm is in the process of reviewing programs and policies. While this activity is in its early stages, we anticipate that industry consultations will begin in early 2011 with the goal of ensuring that, to the best of our abilities, priorities and needs are identified and met. There will be some early stage consultation processes undertaken and I look forward to hearing from our clients.

Best,


Susanne Bell



On the set of the highly anticipated new CBC comedy series *InSecurity*, filmed in the Canada Saskatchewan Production Studios, are from left to right: Bill Hutchinson, Minister of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport; Natalie Lisinska as Alex Cranston; Don Morgan, Minister of Justice and Attorney General; Grace Lynn Kung as JoJo Kwan; and, Dustin Duncan, Minister of Environment. Photo courtesy of Allan Feidel.

and public sector knowledge and an energy and enthusiasm that is proving to be of tremendous benefit to all who are fortunate to work with her. David Gane also left SaskFilm to return to the halls of the University of Regina in pursuit of his Masters. His position will very soon be in the capable hands of Tobi Lampard, who comes to us from Partners In Motion, where she held the position of Director

screenings throughout the province. We congratulate all filmmakers and thank them for their commitment to ensuring Saskatchewan residents have access to their talents and stories. In addition, our producers, key creative, craftspeople and technicians continue to be recognized through various competitions - congratulations to you all!

SaskFilm
and video development corporation



Guests get a behind the scenes glimpse of *InSecurity*. Photo courtesy of Allan Feidel.

SUMMER/FALL RECAP

PRODUCTION

InSecurity

The highly-anticipated new primetime comedy series *InSecurity* wrapped filming on its first season, which was shot in the state-of-the-art Canada Saskatchewan Production Studios and in-and-around Regina. The series, co-produced by Vérité Films and Company Name Here Productions, features Natalie Lisinska (*Chloe*) and William deVry (*The Bold and the Beautiful*) and will premiere on CBC in January.



The Bionic Bannock Boys from left to right: Keon Francis, Sean Dean and Cory Generoux at the August 21 premiere screening of their new comedy series on APTN this fall. Photo courtesy of Cory Generoux.

PREMIERES AND SCREENINGS

There was a flurry of premieres and screenings this past summer and fall including:

AUGUST

Bionic Bannock Boys

In advance of their new comedy series that hit TV screens this fall, Cory Generoux, Keon Francis and Sean Dean, aka the **Bionic Bannock Boys**, treated fans to a live performance and sneak peek of selected segments of their new APTN comedy series, produced by Crimson Clay Media, at Dakota Dunes Casino.

SEPTEMBER

The Last Steamship: The Search for the SS City of Medicine Hat

Colourful Luggage Productions' feature length documentary premiered to a sold-out Saskatoon audience. More details about the film and its premiere can be found in *A Few Minutes With...* on page three.

On Roughriders: A Century of Saskatchewan Roughrider Football

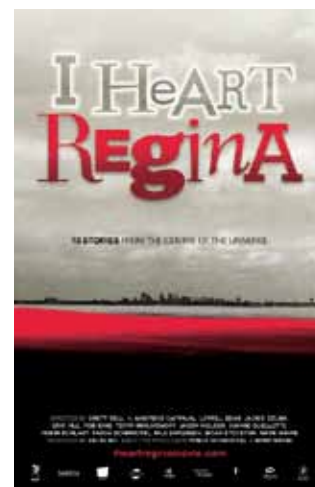
The one-hour centennial documentary was screened at a premiere event to an enthusiastic audience that included former and current



Saskatchewan Roughrider gear waits dramatically on the field. Photo courtesy of Partners in Motion.

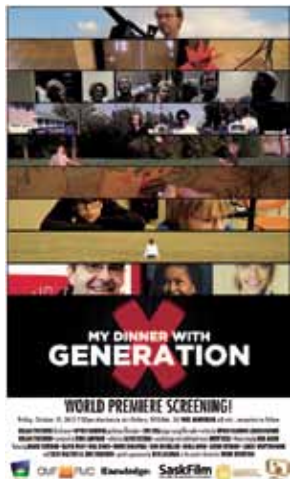
Roughrider alumni along with cast and crew and other special guests. The Partners In Motion production chronicles the history, growth and century-old triumph of the Saskatchewan Roughrider Nation and had its world broadcast premiere on SCN in September, as well.

OCTOBER



I Heart Regina

Billed as "13 Stories from the Centre of the Universe", *I Heart Regina* features 13 short films by 14 local directors that tell stories of lives lived in Regina. Cast, crew and funding partners took in its first hometown screening which followed on the heels of its world premiere at the Montreal World Film Festival, where it captivated audiences and media alike.



My Dinner with Generation X

This road-movie documentary, produced by Partners in Motion, explores Generation X, the “often misunderstood and mislabeled group of people born in the early 1960s”. Its world premiere screening delighted Regina audiences and was followed by its broadcast premiere on SCN shortly afterwards.

**A FEW MINUTES WITH...
LEANNE SCHINKEL
AND NILS SORENSEN**

After a whirlwind September that saw the premiere of their first feature length documentary, followed by a trip to the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) as Film Market Access interns, Leanne Schinkel and Nils Sorensen have finally slowed down long enough to share some of their recent experiences.

Q: Tell us a little about yourselves?

L: I was born and raised in Saskatoon. I came to film through photography (and search of adventure). I started taking photos at a young age and when I began to travel after high school, I took my SLR and a bag of slide film. I got my first video camera for a trip to New Zealand and shot everything for six months. When I got home, I had all this footage and not a clue what to do with it so I began cutting it and spent a couple months learning to edit, figuring out what worked and what didn't, and learning how to

tell the story of the trip. Before long, I was hooked - I started film school at the U of R in 2004.

N: I was born and raised in Melfort. As a kid, my father introduced me to the works of J.R.R. Tolkien, and for the next few months I read everything I could. A few years later, when the movies were being produced, I became involved with a leading Lord of the Rings website as a news reporter and moderator. When the first film was released, it was a surreal and formative experience to see years of rumors, debates and news leaks realized onscreen, and I was inspired to learn how to capture a story (which can play vividly in your head) in reality with a camera. I enrolled in the U of R's Media Production & Studies program and convocated in 2008 with the University Prize in Fine Arts.

Q: What was it like to premiere your documentary *The Last Steamship: The Search for the SS City of Medicine Hat*?

L: Amazing. We had no idea what the turnout would be and were crossing our fingers to just fill half the house! It was wonderful to see so many come out and support a project about an exciting piece of our history. It was about finally getting to see two years of hard work come to fruition and more importantly, being able to say a very public thank you to everyone who supported the project from the start, who put



People turned out in droves for the premiere screening of *The Last Steamship: The Search for the SS City of Medicine Hat* at the Broadway Theatre in Saskatoon on September 3, 2010. Photo courtesy of Nils Sorensen.

time and money into it and never ceased to make us feel like we were making something important. I really wanted to share this documentary with those people because without them, it would have “sunk” ages ago.

N: Phenomenal - the community responded in ways I never imagined. We had a sold-out crowd with a lineup around the block and we added an additional wave of screenings to accommodate the demand. It was a little surreal to finally watch the film with an audience after two years of work. I sat



Filmmakers Leanne Schinkel and Nils Sorensen join Captain Ross (Randy Schinkel) from the SS City of Medicine Hat during production of the film's 1908 recreation shots. Photo courtesy of Nils Sorensen.

on the floor at the very back of the theatre and just took it in, hoping people would laugh when they were supposed to, smiling as they laughed when I never expected them to, and just witnessing their engagement as they experienced this little known Saskatchewan shipwreck yarn.

Q: From that packed Saskatoon theatre, you went to TIFF; what did you get from that experience?

L: I interned with William Morris Endeavor. There were some incredibly stressful aspects but the overall experience was great. It was such a learning opportunity to watch an agency in sales mode - WME was representing a number of films premiering at TIFF - and see how that process works. I attended gala premieres, industry parties, and info panels to network and make contacts. It was incredible to be amid so many talented people and really feel like a part of the greater industry. One of my favourite experiences was meeting Werner Herzog at the *Cave of Forgotten Dreams* after-party. I was pretty speechless! I also attended a panel in which he and Errol Morris discussed their style of doc production; it was amazing to see these two juggernauts of film production have a casual conversation about what drives them.

N: I mentored with United Talent Agency, who were representing and selling a number of high-profile films being screened. I got to be an industry insider and a public participant: I saw sales pitches, exit poll interviews with potential distribution companies, premiere preparation and after-parties, industry screenings, and all the general hour-to-hour operations of an agency in sales mode during a film festival. It was a true crash-course and I don't think there would have been any better way, short of premiering a film, to experience TIFF for the first time. I came home with intimate knowledge of the festival and its relationship with the industry; as a filmmaker, I developed a real and invaluable sense of what to expect from press audiences, sales agents, and the general public when bringing a film to an international festival.

Q: What's next?

L: I have several projects on the go that I'll continue working on. Nils and I are co-writing a feature film and have a couple of television projects we're pursuing this winter. I have a lot of excitement for the future and am looking forward to what 2011 will bring.

N: I'm currently diving into pre-production on a short dramatic film that I will be shooting at a secret, remote location this spring. Leanne and I are also writing a feature-film adaptation of the real-life story of North America's first female undertaker, which is a haunting and inspirational piece of prairie heritage that is begging for the big screen.

INTERACTIVE 2010

Almost 100 delegates of the interactive and film/TV industries, along with representatives from government and education, gathered in Saskatoon on September 24 for Interactive 2010, presented by the Saskatchewan Motion Picture Industry Association and the Saskatchewan Interactive Media Association (SIMA).

The event focused on new opportunities for cross-media funding and content creation partnerships and featured presentations by industry leaders such as Gavin McGarry, Robert Rice and Neal McDougall.

Participants also took in a Panasonic demonstration of its 3D camera technology; a luncheon and presentation by the Canada Media Fund on funding through its Convergent and Experimental Streams and a Pecha Kucha pitch panel, where people with innovative ideas presented their leading edge concepts to industry for evaluation and potential partnerships.

As well, the winners of the 2010 Saskatchewan Interactive Media Award were also announced at the evening banquet; the winners' list can be found at: www.saskinteractive.com/sima_awards/2010winners.php

Many connections were made between communities and both business and creative conversations started that are hoped will lead to the proliferation of exciting transmedia content being produced in Saskatchewan.



SaskInteractive 2010 drew nearly 100 delegates from the interactive, film and TV industry, as well as from government and education. Photo courtesy of SaskInteractive.