

SASKFILM CLIPS

September 2007

Volume 1 • Issue 1

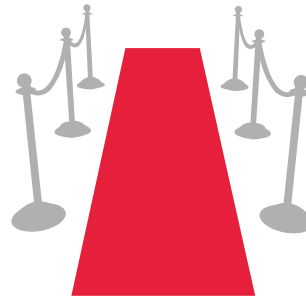
Welcome to the inaugural edition of SaskFilm's quarterly e-update. We plan to keep you informed about SaskFilm programs, events and services and the impacts they are having on the province's economy, culture and international profile. This month we are particularly excited about the upcoming Gemini Awards taking place in Regina on October 28th and the production that will result from SaskFilm's investments in its MAX Equity and Documentary Funds. I hope you find this information useful.

Susanne Bell
CEO and Film Commissioner for
Saskatchewan

SASKFILM WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

At its June meeting, the SaskFilm Board welcomed new members Marty Klyne and Crystal Warde. Marty is the President and CEO of Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation and Crystal is a Saskatoon lawyer. Welcome to both Marty and Crystal.

They join Pamela Haidenger-Bains, Ken Alecxe, Carl Karp, Sheila Petty, John K. Aitken, Janet Delage, Pam Klein, Sheldon Stener, Mike Anderson, Jill Welke, Barb MacLean, Laura Saunders and Debbie Wilkie in guiding the direction of the agency.



SASKATCHEWAN
ROLLS OUT THE
RED CARPET
REGINA HOSTS THE GEMINI AWARDS

2007 Gemini Awards

It will be Saskatchewan's time to shine when Canadian television stars, personalities, producers and broadcasters arrive at the Conexus Arts Centre for the 22nd Annual Gemini Awards on October 28th. The Red Carpet pre-show is bound to bring out local fans and garner enthusiasm for home-grown productions with 16 Saskatchewan nominees vying for awards in their respective categories.

This will be the first time that the public will be attending Canada's television awards – thanks to the generous seating capacity of the Conexus Arts Centre. Global Television will be covering the red carpet arrival of the stars and CBC Television will be broadcasting the awards.

Saskatchewan's film and television industry will be taking full advantage of

the occasion by hosting meetings with broadcasters and producers, staging tours of the Canada Saskatchewan Production Studios, and screening Saskatchewan television productions around the province. Saskatchewan's production community will tap into visiting expertise by holding auditioning and location sound workshops and sessions with a documentary scriptwriter and a director and DOP.

The Host Committee, co-chaired by SMPIA's Executive Director Vanessa Bonk and the Regina Hotel Association's CEO J.P. Ellson, has its own plans for Gemini week. "Like the Rolling Stones concerts and the Jeux du Canada Summer Games, we will show the rest of Canada how to 'wow' the nation and once again demonstrate what a great place Saskatchewan is to work, live, and play," said Ellson.

Sara Morton, the newly-appointed CEO of the Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television, is excited to tour the event outside of Toronto for the second year in a row, "Saskatchewan's vital television industry makes it an ideal location for the Geminis, which celebrate the very best of Canadian television. We appreciate the warm welcome extended by Regina and its citizens to the Geminis and broadcast partners CBC and Global."

Saskatchewan residents don't have to wait until October to meet the 'stars' of Canadian television – in addition to this year's nominees, many previous award recipients live, work and play in Saskatchewan. See page 4 for a list of Saskatchewan's Gemini recipients.

SaskFilm
and video development corporation

2007 GEMINI NOMINEES

Corner Gas

- Best Comedy Program or Series: p. Brent Butt, Paul Mather, David Storey, Virginia Thompson (Prairie Pants Productions Inc, Vérité Films, 3/35 Productions)
- Best Direction in a Comedy Program or Series - Robert De Lint - The Good Old Table Hockey Game
- Best Writing in a Comedy or Variety Program or Series - Paul Mather - Blog River
- Best Writing in a Comedy or Variety Program or Series - Mark Farrell - Gopher It
- Best Writing in a Comedy or Variety Program or Series - Brent Butt - Kid Stuff
- Best Ensemble Performance in a Comedy Program or Series: Brent Butt, Lorne Cardinal, Fred Ewanuick, Gabrielle Miller, Eric Peterson, Nancy Robertson, Tara Spencer-Nairn, Janet Wright - Gopher It

Landscape as Muse II

- Best Direction in a Documentary Series - Ian Toews - The Forest with Peter von Tiesenhausen

Landscape as Muse III

- Best Performing Arts Program or Series or Arts Documentary Program or Series (291 Film Company) Ian Toews

The ReInventors

- Best Writing in an Information Program or Series - Colin McNeil - Gun Helmet (Partners in Motion)

RenegadePress.com IV

- Best Writing in a Children's or Youth Program or Series - Sara Snow - Blackout
- Best Performance in a Children's or Youth Program or Series Magda Apanowicz - RenegadePress.com IV - Blackout
Ishan Dave - RenegadePress.com IV - Sullengirl16
Bronson Pelletier - RenegadePress.com - The Third Wheel

The Runner (CBC News at Six - Saskatchewan)

- Best Sports Feature Segment

Wapos Bay

- Best Children's or Youth Fiction Program or Series (Wapos Bay Productions, Wapos Bay Productions, National Film Board of Canada) Dennis Jackson, Melanie Jackson, Derek Mazur, Anand Ramayya
- Best Writing in a Children's or Youth Program or Series - Trevor Cameron - Something to Remember

SaskFilm would also like to recognize **Little Mosque on the Prairie** and its creator Zarqa Nawaz. *Little Mosque on the Prairie* received two nominations: Best Direction in a Comedy Program or Series - Michael Kennedy - *The Convert*, and Best Writing in a Comedy or Variety Program or Series - Alan Rae - *The Convert*. *The Convert* was a co-production of WestWind Pictures in Ontario and Saskatchewan's Last Mountain Films. The nominated episode was shot in Toronto, Ontario.

MAX EQUITY FUND AND DOCUMENTARY FUND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SaskFilm is pleased to announce the results of the June 15, 2007 application deadline for the Max Equity Fund and the Documentary Fund. The juries were faced with some tough decisions because of the number of exceptional productions submitted by Saskatchewan producers this round.

Drama

- *Rabbit Fall the series*, Angel Entertainment Corporation
- *RenegadePress.com, Season V*, Vérité Films
- *Wapos Bay (Episodes 14 to 19)*, Wapos Bay Productions

Documentary

- *Ayisiniwak ka-wichihuwecki - People that Changed Life (Y'utthe Askiy Productions Ltd.)*
- *Colony: The Story of the Hutterites* (David Lennan Holdings Ltd - Blue Hill Productions Ltd.)
- *Crime Stories, Season VI (CS Series Productions VI Inc. - Partners In Motion Pictures Inc.)*
- *Edifice & Us, Season II (Wolf Sun Productions Ltd.)*
- *King of the Castle (Autumn Productions Inc.)*
- *Landing, Season II (Karma Film Inc.)*
- *Landscape as Muse, Season III (Landscape as Muse Productions IV Inc. - 291 Film Company Inc.)*
- *Police Beat (Zima Junction Productions Inc. and Agitprop Films Inc.)*
- *The Re-Inventors, Season II (PA Series Productions II Inc. - Partners In Motion Pictures Inc.)*
- *Running Against Crime (Cooper Rock Pictures Inc.)*

- *Stolen Sisters (Fahrenheit Films Inc.)*
- *The Truth Behind Yourself (101089361 Saskatchewan Ltd - Cooper Rock Pictures Inc.)*

SASKFILM PROGRAMS GET A BOOST FROM THE CANWEST WESTERN INDEPENDENT PRODUCERS (CWIP) FUND



SaskFilm CEO Susanne Bell accepts a cheque from Adrian Burns Chair of CWIP

From 2001 to 2006, CanWest provided \$23.9 million in support of the Western Independent Producers Fund, with funding for film and television projects produced by independent producers in western Canada. Of note in Saskatchewan, the Fund awarded \$600,260 to support 22 hours of programming and helped support the launches of *Corner Gas* and *renegadePress.com*. At the conclusion of CWIP's run, remaining funds were distributed to provincial stakeholders. SaskFilm's portion will top-up its equity fund and producers market travel assistance.

SASKFILM'S BUSINESS & EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM RENEWED



In 2005, twenty-one members of Saskatchewan's production community attended the inaugural edition of the program.

SaskFilm is offering a second session of *Saskatchewan's Business & Executive Leadership Development Program* presented by and modeled after the prestigious Banff Executive Program. The five-day program provides a targeted, intensive agenda aimed at developing business acumen and leadership skills in the film, television and interactive industry.

The Saskatchewan edition of the program is an outstanding opportunity for those working in the industry as producers and distributors, as well as those in business affairs, communications, marketing and operations, and hone their business skills and strategic plans to effectively compete on the international stage. It takes place September 23rd to 28th in Moose Jaw. For more information, visit the 'News' section of SaskFilm's web site at www.saskfilm.com.

Producer Stephen Onda, who attended the program in 2005, reported, "My business plan and strategies for growth and

accomplishments are now jet fuelled! This is a program that brought new ideas and approaches as well as reinforced some approaches and strategies I use today and will apply tomorrow."

Finn on the Fly visits Moose Jaw

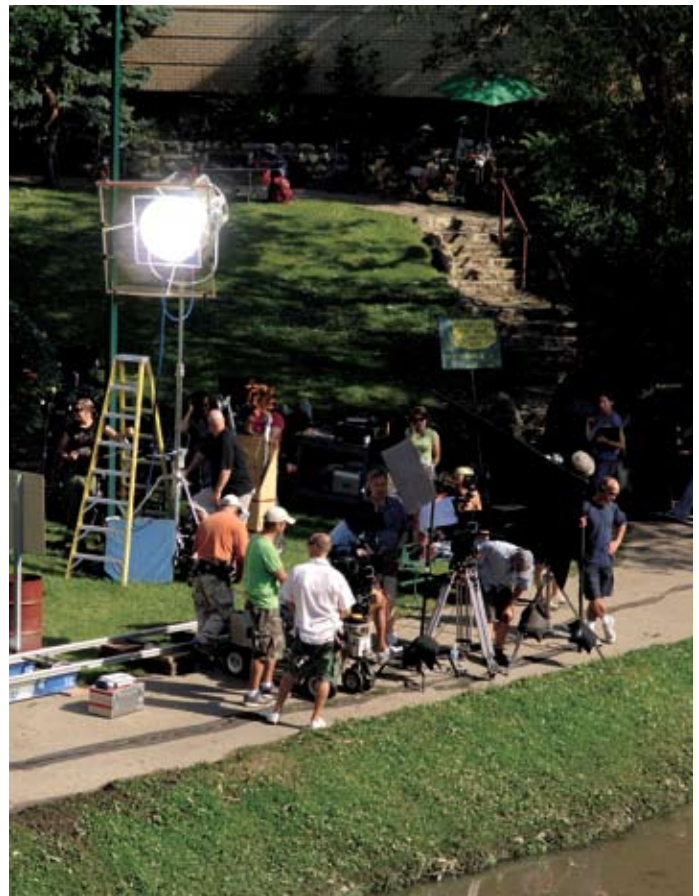
Moose Jaw's rich history in nurturing the performing, visual and literary arts is an investment that has reaped many rewards; economic as well as social and cultural. Cultural tourism is a driving force behind its economy, heritage plays a central role in its image and it hosts prestigious events such as Festival of Words and the Western Canada Music Awards. "Being a location for film is just a natural extension of our community's involvement in the arts and in cultural tourism," says Diana Ireland, director of Moose's Jaw's Regional Economic Development Association. Moose Jaw took on the role of 'Any Town, Canada' in Toronto-based

Amaze Film + Television's new feature film *Finn on the Fly*, the story of a dog that is accidentally transformed into a human by a botched science experiment. "A production like this can't help but raise the visibility of our city," says Ireland, "In addition to the visiting producers, cast and crew, Moose Jaw's beautiful locations will be seen by everyone watching the film."

However, it's the economic benefits of hosting a film that are at the top of Ireland's agenda, "Business activity is stimulated by supplying goods, services, accommodations and meals to the production, as well as having all of these people (and dogs) in town for 14 days." Ireland says that

the production kept her busy with negotiations, scouting locations, contacting building owners to get access, and arranging for parking spots for all of the equipment. Local residents are also picking up some work as extras and crew. "It's well worth the effort," she says, "for both business and the community."

Regina's Stephen Onda, who is co-producing the film, says, "We chose Moose Jaw as a location because of the look and feel of the city. They've done a wonderful job of preserving the historic aspects and I congratulate them for that. It offers production companies a wealth of options for location shooting."



Finn on the Fly crew on location in Moose Jaw

Rabbit Fall The Series

Rabbit Fall The Series, a six-part dramatic series, is a milestone production. It is the first dramatic series for Angel Entertainment, and it's the first dramatic series created, developed and shot entirely in and around Saskatoon. With the support of APTN, SMPIA's Career Development Program, SIAS's Job Start/Future Skills program and the Saskatchewan Film Employment Tax Credit deeming provision, it has implemented a continuing Aboriginal training program. Trainee selections were based on collaborations with local union representatives, and the training initiative encouraged both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people to play an active role in the industry.

Producers Wally Start and Bob Crowe have made building industry capacity

through an expanded crew base in Saskatoon their first priority. "*Rabbit Fall The Series* is more than just world class entertainment. It's a terrific vehicle for economic growth and sustainable job creation. After all, the success of this series is riding on the skill and determination of the entire production team."

Watch for *Rabbit Fall The Series* on APTN, VisionTV and SCN.

SASK LOCATIONS

Location support has been brisk during the past month with scouting taking place in the Qu'Appelle Valley, the Avonlea Badlands, Lumsden, Indian Head, Wolsley and Moose Jaw.

Toronto's Insight Production Company Ltd. in association with CTV and Regina's Stephen Onda has wrapped principal photography on the series



Episode 5 of *Rabbit Fall*.

pilot *Sabbatical*. The one-hour suspense drama was shot in Wolseley and around Bethune, Big Muddy, Castle Butte and Bengough and was based in the Canada Saskatchewan Production Studios. Earlier in the season, Toronto-based Amaze Film + Television's new feature film *Finn on the Fly* was shooting in Moose Jaw and Regina and *Corner Gas* was in Rouleau and at the Sound Stage.

Upcoming at the Canada Saskatchewan Production Studio is Vérité Films' *renegadepress.com*, and *Walled In*, a Minds Eye Entertainment co-production with Experience Films and Forecast Pictures, both of France. Also shooting is *45 RPM*, produced by Saskatoon's Karma Film and Calgary's Nomadic Pictures.

GEMINI RECIPIENTS

- 1992
Best Children's Program or Series
The Garden (Stephen Onda)
- 1998
Best Direction in a Documentary Program or Series
Chris Triffo (Dad)
- 1998
Best Picture Editing in a Documentary Program or Series
Dean Evans (Dad)
- 1998
Canada Award
The Rez – Season Two (Brian Dennis)
- 2000
Best Picture Editing in a Comedy, Variety, Performing Arts Program or Series
Jackie Dzuba (They Live to Polka)
- 2000
Best Children's or Youth Program or Series
Incredible Story Studio (Virginia Thompson, Rob King, Robert de Lint, Kevin Dewalt)
- 2004
Canada Award
Cosmic Current (Joe MacDonald, Anand Ramayya)
- 2005
Canada Award
Two Worlds Colliding (Bonnie Thompson, Tasha Hubbard)
- 2005
Best Interactive
www.cornergas.ca (Virginia Thompson, Leif Kaldor, Brent Butt, Dave Storey)
- 2005
Best Comedy Program or Series
Corner Gas (Virginia Thompson, Brent Butt, David Storey, Paul Mather, Mark Farrell)
- 2005
Best Performance in a Children's or Youth Program or Series
Ksenia Solo (renegadepress.com)
- 2006
Best Performance in a Children's or Youth Program or Series
Ksenia Solo (renegadepress.com)
- 2006
Best Comedy Program or Series
Corner Gas (Virginia Thompson, Brent Butt, David Storey, Paul Mather, Mark Farrell)
- 2006
Best Writing in a Children's or Youth's Program or Series
Jordan Wheeler (renegadepress.com)
- 2006
Canada Award
Wapos Bay – There's No I In Hockey (Dennis Jackson, Melanie Jackson, Anand Ramayya, Michael Scott)