

SASKFILM CLIPS

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THANKS FOR THE LAUGHS, CORNER GAS

After six seasons, 107 episodes and a multitude of industry awards, *Corner Gas* has filled its last tank and the Ruby has served its last chili dog. Due to the tireless work and commitment of the producers, cast and crew, the series broke new ground in Canadian television and continues to serve as an industry benchmark to which all other Canadian television series are measured.

To send the hit series out in style, we joined forces with Vérité Films/335 Productions with CNT Group to provide a once in a lifetime opportunity for members of the public to tour through the *Corner Gas* sets found in the Canada Saskatchewan Production Studios to raise \$38,000 for the Hospitals of Regina Foundation Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Over 2500 fans were able to visit the sets made famous on the hit series; tour our impressive production facility and meet the Gemini Award winning cast of *Corner Gas*. It was truly festive afternoon complete with autograph signings, music, screenings, prizes and Brent LeRoy's favourite meal: chili cheese dogs. Congratulations to *Corner Gas* fans, cast and the team at Vérité Films for making this event such a success.



Corner Gas fans tour the set of The Ruby for a good cause.



Actor Lorne Cardinal signs an autograph for a little fan.



The cast and producers of *Corner Gas* and the event's organizers present a cheque for \$38,000 to the Hospitals of Regina Foundation.

All photos: Allan Feidel

CORNER GAS BY THE NUMBERS

<i>How many times a coffee cup was poured or consumed:</i>	1,196
<i>How many times Oscar called someone a "jackass":</i>	83
<i>How many times Brent was found reading a comic book:</i>	92
<i>How many times Wanda was found reading a crossword puzzle:</i>	95
<i>How many times someone responded to the mention of 'Wullerton' with a spit:</i>	18
<i>How many guest stars appeared on the series:</i>	54

Kevin McDonald; Colin Mochrie; Pamela Wallin; Farley Flex, Jake Gold, Sass Jordan and Zack Werner; Darryl Sittler; Lloyd Robertson; Mark McKinney; The Tragically Hip; Colin James; Ben Mulroney; Jann Arden; Prime Minister Paul Martin; Shirley Douglas; Minister of Parliament, Ralph Goodale; Premier Lorne Calvert; Gavin Crawford; Ken Read; Adrienne Clarkson; Mike Holmes; Prime Minister Stephen Harper; Canada AM's Seamus O'Regan and Beverly Thomson; Duane "Dog" Chapman the Bounty Hunter; Kiefer Sutherland.

*List accounts for seasons one through five only.



SaskFilm
and video development corporation

SUMMER PRODUCTION RECAP

Dolan's Cadillac

As one of Stephen King's most dark and riveting revenge tales, the short story "Dolan's Cadillac" was written by the best-selling American author in 1989. Following a string of King's screen adaptations - *Carrie*, *Pet Semetary*, *Creepshow*, *The Shining* and *Dolores Claiborne*, *Dolan's Cadillac* is the story of school teacher Tom Robinson (**Wes Bentley**) who attempts to avenge his wife's death after she is murdered by James Dolan (**Christian Slater**), Las Vegas' most ruthless and untouchable mob boss. *Dolan's Cadillac* will be released in early 2009.

Dolan's Cadillac is a Minds Eye Entertainment Production in association with Footprint Investments and Prescience.

packed night with an automotive hybrid that defies viewer's preconceptions. **Hybrid** is the first feature film shot in Canada exclusively employing RED technology, which means no actual film was used in the process. The RED ONE camera captures images straight to hard-drive, thereby increasing production value and simplifying the post-production process.

Hybrid will be released in 2009.

Hybrid is a Stallion Media and Tadora KG Production in association with Minds Eye Entertainment, Picture Park, Convergence Entertainment and Studio 407.



Oded Fehr on the set of *Hybrid* in Regina. Photo: David Giesbrecht

Hybrid

This feature film stars Oded Fehr (*The Mummy*, *Resident Evil: Extinction*) and newcomer Shannon Beckner (*American Pie Presents: Beta House*). Beckner plays Tilda, an automotive mechanic with a tortured past who encounters a challenge like no other when she reports to her job on the night shift at a Chicago police garage. When a crime scene car arrives unexpectedly she discovers a horrifying reality. Tilda and her colleagues find themselves fighting to survive the alarming circumstances of an action-



Officer Tara Wheaton (Andrea Menard) and her team discover a murder victim in *Rabbit Fall*. Photo: Angel Entertainment

Rabbit Fall

Filmed in the small town of Duck Lake in central Saskatchewan, this drama series stars Gemini-nominated actor, singer, songwriter and playwright Andrea Menard (*The Velvet Devil*) as cop Tara Wheaton who works in the remote northern town of Rabbit Fall. But there's more to the crimes she's solving than meets the eye, as she discovers supernatural elements are at work in the town. The series' all-star cast also includes Gemini-nominated actors Peter Kelly Gaudreault (*North of 60*), Peter Stebbings (*Across the River to Motor City*) and acclaimed Canadian actor Kevin Jubinville (*Degrassi:*

The Next Generation) as Wheaton's nemesis on the police force. *Rabbit Fall* premiered on APTN in the fall of 2007 and immediately became one of the network's most popular prime-time programs. It currently broadcasts on APTN and Space.

Rabbit Fall is produced by Angel Entertainment.

INDUSTRY TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

SaskFilm and the province's unions, guilds and industry associations have been working steadily over the past six months to develop an effective and measurable training and professional development strategy for the film and television sector. The plan will ensure that our current production personnel and performers are provided the opportunities to develop their craft; while also creating a province-wide recruitment and training plan for newcomers to the industry.

Recently, SaskFilm, along with Partners in Motion, participated in Premier Wall's Saskatchewan mission to the National Job Fair in Toronto to recruit Saskatchewan expatriates as well as industry professionals looking for new opportunities. SaskFilm received an overwhelming response and continues to receive inquiries and resumes from across Ontario.

To stay informed on new training initiatives, career opportunities and resource information on training and skills development, please visit www.saskfilm.com and select "Training Initiatives". Check back to this section of the web site for new workshops and professional development opportunities in December 2008 and January 2009.

SaskFilm also provides productions and production companies with information about individuals just beginning their careers in Saskatchewan's film and television industry. To register your interest, fill out the attached form and email to careers@saskfilm.com. Please note that by providing SaskFilm with this form, you are authorizing the corporation to distribute the information as it sees fit.

A FEW MINUTES WITH...
SHANNON JARDINE

Shannon Jardine is one of Saskatchewan's most sought out performers with a range of credits including *Prairie Giant: The Tommy Douglas Story*, *The Englishman's Boy*, *Corner Gas*, *Moccasin Flats*, *renegadepress.com*, *Little Mosque on the Prairie* and *Rabbit Fall* and most recently, the feature films *Surveillance*, *Shortcut* and *Walled In*.



Shannon Jardine on the set of *Prairie Giant: The Tommy Douglas Story* with Michael Theriault. Photo: Minds Eye Entertainment

Q: I understand you graduated from University of Toronto's prestigious theatre program. What brought you back to Saskatchewan?

A: Actually, I didn't plan on moving back to Saskatchewan. I came back here one summer to stay at my dad's cabin in the woods and write a feature script with Terry Mialkowsky. We ended up completing a short film, inspired by the feature we were writing, in 48 hours. We shot it in the bush in Northern Saskatchewan. We had no professional crew but my dad's buddies, all farmers and entertainers in their own right helped out. The farmers were

really creative and we used a front-end loader for crane shots. My dad flew the spray plane and the video camera was duct taped to it for amazing aerial shots. We called it *The Land of the Yodeling Mushroom People* and we stayed in Saskatchewan in order to develop it as a television series.

Q: Tell me how a girl from Nipawin ends up in the opening sequence of a Jennifer Lynch film?

A: Oh, that was one of the most special film experiences! I worked very hard to get that role. I contacted my voice coach from the University of Toronto/Sheridan College and asked him for tips on how to scream in an audition without destroying my voice and also how to rehearse it without tiring the vocal chords before I even got to the audition. Then I asked Terry Mialkowsky to chase me down a deserted highway outside of Regina with his vehicle at night. I wanted to get the feeling of what it was like to feel that vulnerable and to bring to the audition what it felt like for me to be in that situation. However, the producers wanted a stunt performer to play the role of Elaine Meyer for safety reasons. Jen Lynch said, "I want Shannon Jardine to open my movie".

Q: *Surveillance* had its world premiere at Cannes this past spring. Describe the transition from filming the movie in rural Saskatchewan to walking up the red carpet (and those infamous stairs!) is like.

A: Wow, that felt like a once in a lifetime experience! It is the type of event that I am used to seeing on television and so when you are in that situation yourself it feels a little surreal. I thought I would have more of a problem walking in big heels on those stairs but it was fine. The publicist for the film had told me beforehand to take my time and look to both sides of the carpet so that all photographers can get good shots. She told me not to rush it otherwise if you do, the next day you sort of wonder if it was real, if it happened at all because it goes by so fast. We had a pre-party and some after parties and getting to experience a bit of the decadence on the French Riviera was so amazing.



Actor Shannon Jardine walks the red carpet in Cannes for her performance in *Surveillance*. Photo: Terry Mialkowsky

Q: You've worked on visiting US productions and several Saskatchewan-based drama series. As an actor, how are the experiences different? Or are they?

A: The experiences for the most part really aren't that different; my job is still the same. However, when I am on a US production I speak with a standard American dialect. I go over the lines with an American dialect coach before I am on set to make sure I am not sounding Canadian on any lines. On the Saskatchewan-based drama series, I guess you could say there is often a more relaxed and intimate feeling because the mostly local crew have worked together for years. So there is a comfort level of familiarity with everyone.

Q: What's next for you?

A: Four features that I am in are yet to be released: *Poe: The Last Days of the Raven*, *Surveillance*, *Walled In* and *Shortcut*. So I am looking forward to getting the word out for those films. I have a recurring role on the television series *Rabbit Fall*. We are currently submitting a short film I co-produced called *Ahh Youth!* to film festivals. And we are working on developing our own film and television projects. I think as actor it is important to create your own work as well.

Q: What's the best piece of acting advice you've received?

A: Trust your own instincts.

SASKATCHEWAN @ FESTIVALS & MARKETS

SaskFilm continues to conduct marketing outreach in provincial, national and international markets and festivals through strategic sponsorships and business development initiatives. In this fiscal year, SaskFilm has participated in the Yorkton Short Film and Video Festival, the Banff World Television Festival, the Toronto International Film Festival, Strategic Partners, Flicks Film Festival for Youth, Mispon, the American Film Market and PrimeTime in Ottawa.

@ the Festivals

Whitmore Park (The Epic Story of My Life Part 4)

Brian Stockton

Toronto International Film Festival

Surveillance

Lago Film/Stephen Onda Productions

Atlantic Film Festival

45 RPM

Karma Film

Vancouver International Film Festival

Calgary International Film Festival

Mad Cow Sacred Cow

Karma Film/Hulo Films

Whistler Film Festival

Interpersonalities

Hulo Films

Whistler Film Festival

@ the Gemini Industry Awards

Best Performing Arts Program or Series or Arts Documentary Program or Series

Landscape as Muse -

Ian Toews, 291 Film Company

Best Direction in a Children's or Youth Program or Series

Robert Daniel Pytlyk - *Drug Class: "Travis' Story"*

Best Individual or Ensemble Performance in an Animated Program or Series

Gordon Tootoosis, Raven Brass, Trevor Cameron, Lorne Cardinal, Taylor Cook, Eric Jackson, Andrea Menard, DerRic Starlight - *Wapos Bay: "The Guardians"*

Best Achievement in Casting

Carmen Kotyk - *The Englishman's Boy*

Best Costume Design

Beverley Wowchuk - *The Englishman's Boy*

Best Direction in a Dramatic Program or Mini-Series

John N. Smith - *The Englishman's Boy*

Best Performance by an Actress in a Featured Supporting Role in a Dramatic Program or Mini-Series

Katharine Isabelle - *The Englishman's Boy*

Best Picture Editing in a Comedy, Variety or Performing Arts Program or Series

Vanda Schmockel - *Corner Gas: "Contagious Fortune"*



Filmmaker Ian Toews visited the SaskFilm offices to show us the Gemini Award he earned for Best Documentary Series for his series, *Landscape as Muse*. Congratulations, Ian and the team at 291 Film Company!