

February 2007  
Issue #2

Happy New Year! The Vancouver Student Film Festival looks forward to another great year of showcasing local talent by up and coming BC film and video makers.

Please visit our website, [www.vsff.com](http://www.vsff.com), for our new *independent filmmaker support page* and updates on this year's festival!

### **In this issue:**

- New Filmmaker Programmes
- Announcements
- Forums
- Events
- Submissions
- Upcoming Film Festivals
- VSFF Call for Volunteers
- VSFF Mandate & Board Members
- Closing Notes

## **NEW FILMMAKER PROGRAMMES**

**POINT OF VIEW MAGAZINE**  
**POV** In the Winter Issue of POV, Peter Wintonick interviews National Film Board commissioner Jacques Bensimon and head of English Production Branch Tom Perlmutter about the NFB's Five Year Plan for Canadian Filmmakers.

Excerpt:

**“Tom Perlmutter:** One of our great successes has been the emerging filmmaker programme, which is unique and probably among the best in the world. It's unique because it has the ability to combine training with hard-core production. Emerging filmmakers come to the program with some kind of training or film school background. We provide environments for them where discipline and time frames are created and controlled. We put together workshops for emerging filmmakers by leading practitioners, and team them with

## February 2007 Issue #2

# Vancouver Student Film Festival

leading craftspeople, cinematographers, editors, and so on. It's been very successful.

There's a programme in Ontario called *Momentum* where there's a week of workshops and we get 120 young filmmakers. We tell them to submit a proposal for a ten-minute film, and we'll do four of those. But even the ones who don't get to make a film, leave with a sense of connection to the Film Board, and to filmmaking. Opportunities do open for them. The four films that we do are fabulous. This year one of them went to Sundance. We took that model and worked with young Aboriginals. We called them *First Stories* and it's been different because it brings together people who have not been to film school, but they are producing brilliant results. When we work with diverse communities I'm so aware it's not what we're doing for them, it's what they're doing for us – rejuvenating us, and bringing their talent, perspective and connection. It matters to us, and it matters to Canada to have that point of view available. No one else is going to do that.

**Jacques Bensimon:** Other programmes include aid to the independent sector, helping filmmakers complete their films, to post-produce them and to go on and do what they need to do. The filmmakers these programmes have supported over the years are a who's who of Canadian cinema.”

For more information on NFB programmes, visit [www.nfb.ca](http://www.nfb.ca).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Mark McGuckin** and **Calum MacLeod**, graduates of the UBC Fine Arts program, have produced and launched their own TV series called *Road Hockey Rumble*. The pair also stars in the program that premiered Jan. 10, 2007 and will continue Wednesday nights at 9:30 p.m. on the Outdoor Life Network (OLN).



February 2007  
Issue #2

Vancouver  
Student  
Film  
Festival

McGuckin worked on the film *College Days, College Nights* with Prof. John Zaritzky and the UBC Film Program. He also produced *Lyon King* (2004) which screened at the Worldwide Short Film Festival in Toronto and is now being broadcast on CTV's Comedy Network.

For more information, visit [www.roadhockeyrumble.com](http://www.roadhockeyrumble.com).



OUT ON SCREEN

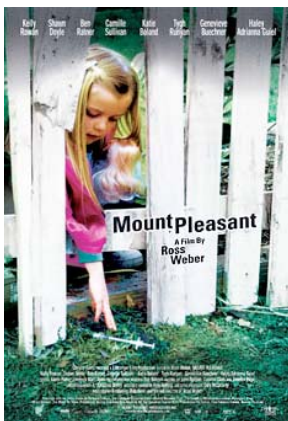
### Queer Film Festival Hiring

With August only 6 months away, the **Vancouver Queer Film & Video Festival** is seeking creative team players to build our festival staff team. They are seeking the following contract positions:

- Media Relations Coordinator
- Event Marketing Coordinator
- Junior Designer
- Box Office Coordinator & Development Assistant
- Community Relations & Programming Assistant

Please note the above contracts are tentative subject to funding approval. Applicants must have had an eligible EI claim within the last 3 years (or maternity/parental benefits within the last 5 years) to be eligible to apply.

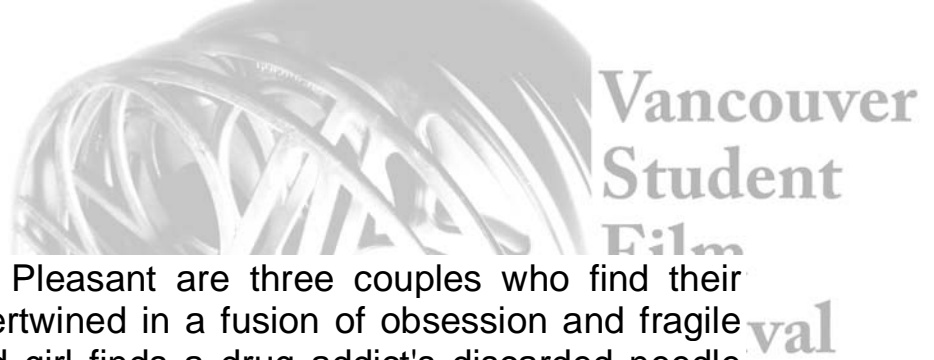
Full details online at <http://www.outonscreen.com>.



### **MOUNT PLEASANT** in theatres now

Vancouver's Mount Pleasant is a gentrifying, reasonably affordable neighbourhood that encourages younger families to make it their dwelling place. But Mount Pleasant also ebbs and flows as a fringe neighbourhood, occasionally housing criminals, sex trade workers and drug addicts.

February 2007  
Issue #2



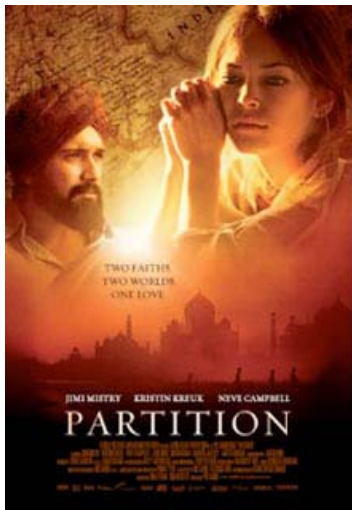
At the centre of Mount Pleasant are three couples who find their destinies irrevocably intertwined in a fusion of obsession and fragile love when a six-year-old girl finds a drug addict's discarded needle while playing in her backyard.

Directed by Ross Weber, the film stars some well-known names on the Vancouver film scene such as Tygh Runyan, Ben Ratner, Bill Marchant, and Jillian Fargey, as well as Gemini Award Winner Kelly Rowan and Katie Boland from Toronto. *Mount Pleasant* opens in Vancouver at the Empire Granville 7 Theatre (Granville & Robson).

### Special Mount Pleasant Online Event

Join the conversation! Do you live in Mount Pleasant in Vancouver, BC or a similar gentrifying neighbourhood in Canada? Do you have views on the issues raised by the film? Share your thoughts at:

<http://www.firstweekend.ca/mountpleasant>.



**PARTITION** in theatres now

**Two Faiths. Two Worlds. One Love.**

First Weekend Club is proud to promote *PARTITION*, a beautiful, epic film by local filmmaker Vic Sarin. *PARTITION* is a personal story for Sarin, one that he has wanted to bring to life for many years and an epic love story played out against a backdrop of political and religious upheaval. At the end of the Second World War, 38 year-old soldier Gian Singh resigns his commission with the British Indian

Army and returns to his childhood village, near the border with Pakistan. Haunted by the memories of war, he seeks a quiet life of farming, solitude and prayer. His peace is shattered however, when India is granted independence. A new border is drawn between Hindu-dominated India and Muslim-dominated Pakistan, and the region is torn apart by massacres fueled by ancient animosities. In the midst of one such massacre, Gian finds Naseem, a 17-year-old Muslim girl, and takes her under his protection. They gradually find

# February 2007 Issue #2

# Vancouver Student Film Festival

themselves drawn to each other but, as their remarkable story plays out, the obstacles to their happiness prove all but surmountable.

The cast includes Jimi Mistry ("The Guru", "East is East"), Kirsten Kreuk ("Smallville"), Neve Campbell, Irrfan Khan and Madhur Jaffrey.

**Partition** screens at the Paramount Vancouver and Park & Tilford Cinemas in North Vancouver.



## VSFF Winner in 24 Hours Newspaper, February 5

Best use of FX Award winner and Emily Carr Institute graduate Joel Furtado was featured in the career section of the 24 Hours Newspaper as the 2006 winner of Electronic Arts' REVEAL scholarship. EA recently opened its online application to all Canadian students, 20 of which are selected to visit EA's Vancouver studio, where a panel of judges will decide the winner of a \$20,000 prize.



"On Fridays, EA gets us beer and cake," Joel told the 24 Hours. "It's a really rewarding job. Everyone is dependant on everyone else." Joel's digital short, *Tree for Two*, won him the Best use of FX award at the 2006 VSFF, including a full day HD Suite session at Artifex Studios, and the opportunity to work for EA as a character designer.

Original article by Dharm Makwana, 24 Hours

February 2007  
Issue #2

Vancouver  
Student  
Film  
Festival



### Animation Open House at Vancouver Film School

Hear about one-year programs, meet the Department Head & instructors, talk to animation grads, and see examples of award-winning student work

February 15h, 2007, 6-9pm, 392 W. Hastings St.

RSVP to [openhouse@vfs.com](mailto:openhouse@vfs.com)



**Filmaka.com** is a new website featuring an online competition where you can submit your short films.

The site is meant for all aspiring filmmakers who want to showcase their talent worldwide. There are cash prizes for submissions and winners score a real movie deal with famous producers in Hollywood. The site features a biweekly contest based on a particular theme. Each film must not be more than 3 minutes. The first 15 winners get a \$500 cash prize and \$1000 for a follow up film. You can also win a feature film contract with a Hollywood filmmaker.

Registration is now open. Membership is free for all film students. Submit your details at <http://www.filmaka.com/filmstudents.asp> with your school name. You will be sent a user name and password.

For more details, log on to <http://www.filmaka.com>.

## FORUMS

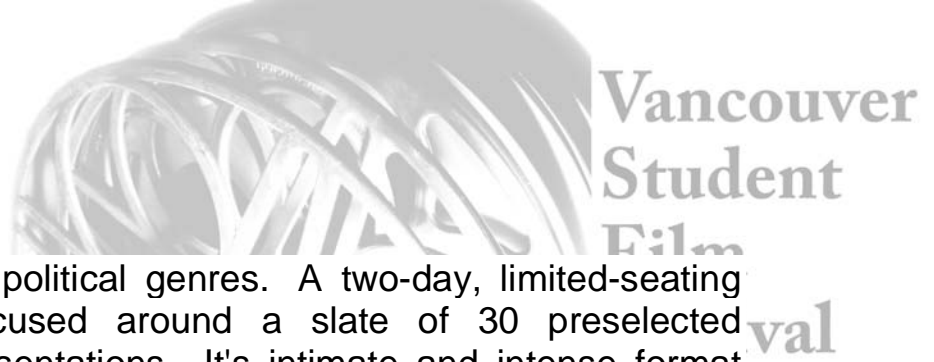
### 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Toronto Documentary Forum

April 25 - 26, 2007



The Toronto Documentary Forum (TDF) is North America's premier market event for the international documentary industry working in

February 2007  
Issue #2



the social, cultural and political genres. A two-day, limited-seating event, the TDF is focused around a slate of 30 preselected international project presentations. It's intimate and intense format has proven extremely successful in building international partnerships and raising additional financing for both presenting and observing producers, as well as providing a preeminent source of up-to-the-minute market intelligence.

Entry form at <http://www.hotdocs.ca/TemplatePage.aspx?PageID=71>.

Observer Seat Deadline: **Thursday, March 15**

For more information, visit [www.hotdocs.ca](http://www.hotdocs.ca) or contact Camille Djokoto, TDF Coordinator, at (1) 416 203 2155 ext 263, [cdjokoto@hotdocs.ca](mailto:cdjokoto@hotdocs.ca).

## EVENTS

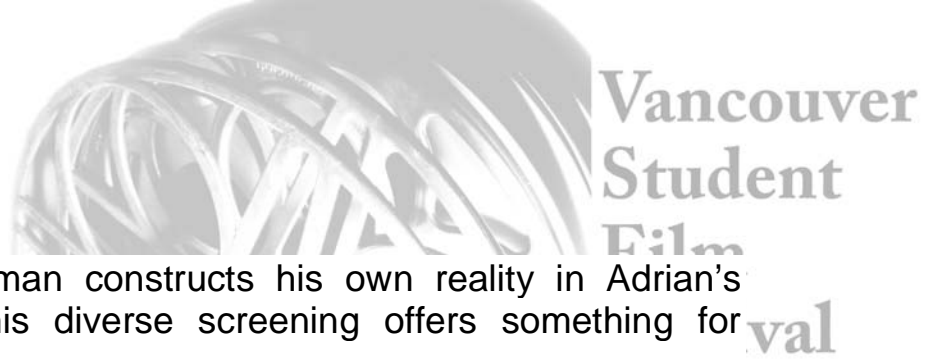


**New Cineworks** celebrates with a Valentine's theme: 'Reel Love'.

**New Cineworks** is an annual screening of new films by members of Cineworks Independent Filmmakers Society. The program represents the diverse nature of the organizations and seeks to represent a variety of film interests and genres, while still creating an innovative and engaging program. The aim is also to expose audiences to kinds of filmmaking they may otherwise not have an opportunity to see and to ignite excitement for local filmmakers and explore the spaces between art and indie.

Come down to the **Pacific Cinematheque** on **February 13<sup>th</sup>**, at **7:30pm** and show your affection for the latest creative works from our membership. This year's offering is a pastiche of comedy and horror; lush colour experiments and meditative dramas. Childhood perception plays out with a bang in Toby Gorman and Ben Peters

February 2007  
Issue #2



"Frog Jesus", while a man constructs his own reality in Adrian's "Cardboard Cutout". This diverse screening offers something for every film fan's taste.



**WILL OF THE WISP – Sunday, February 18, 2007**

Little Wolf Productions and The International Filmmakers Institute present a private industry screening of the Canada Council for the Arts funded short film, WILL OF THE WISP.

Where: **The Vancity Theatre** - Vancouver International Film Centre  
1181 Seymour Street (Seymour and Davie)  
Admission is FREE.

When: **Sunday, February 18, 2007**; 3:30 PM reception, 4:00 PM screening,  
5:00 PM second screening

Guests welcome.

"Beautifully conceived and photographed, 'Will of the Wisp' is a stunning and surreal visual poem depicting the struggles of a haunted young woman as she fights to reclaim her body, her sexuality and her[self]. " Brief nudity, mature subject matter, viewer discretion advised.

Written and Directed by Jody Thompson  
Cinematography by Bruce Marchfelder

February 2007  
Issue #2



### FEMALE FILM FRENZY

The Female Film Frenzy is the latest 48 hour film creation event that will get those creative juices flowing. CASH prizes and potential for a very large audience. Grab your friends!

Make it: **March 2 - 4, 2007**

Watch it: March 8-10, 7pm Norman Rothstein Theatre during the Women in Film & Video Festival.

Check out the website to register for this exciting event:

<http://www.gifttool.com/registrar/ShowEventDetails?ID=136&EID=1077>

## SUBMISSIONS



### CALL FOR ENTRIES

Submit your short film or video for entry into the 2007 Golden Sheaf Competition.

Entry deadline: **February 15, 2007**

Festival dates: May 24-27, 2007.

19 Genre Categories, 16 Craft Categories, The Emerging Filmmaker Award, The Best of Saskatchewan Award and other cash prizes.

Enter online at [www.yorktonshortfilm.org](http://www.yorktonshortfilm.org)

February 2007  
Issue #2

Vancouver  
Student  
Film  
Festival



### “On the Lot” Reality TV Show

A new reality series is coming to the small screen and you could be a contestant! Reality show mastermind **Mark Burnett** and reknowned filmmaker **Steven Spielberg** present “On the Lot”, a series being broadcast on FOX & CTV this spring and summer.

CTV also announced today that Burnett and Spielberg are actively searching for Canadian competitors for the series: aspiring homegrown filmmakers interested in winning a one million dollar development deal with DreamWorks Studios. Short films can be submitted as entry into the first part of the competition. To enter, applicants 13 years of age and older must submit a self-directed short film, up to five minutes in length, before **Friday, Feb. 16, 2007**.

"Canadians have a great track record of competing with the best from around the world, both on reality TV and otherwise," said Burnett. "We look forward to seeing what Canada has to offer."

"From Louis B. Mayer and Jack Warner to Norman Jewison and David Cronenberg, Canada has produced some great movie-makers over the years," said Spielberg. "On The Lot could be the big break that the next great Canadian filmmaker is looking for."

Submissions from filmmakers around the world, including Canadians, will be accepted until Feb. 16. Producers will visit several North American cities for invite-only casting calls, including Toronto in March. Western Canadian filmmakers selected for interviews will travel to Seattle around the same time to meet producers. Afterwards, applicants will be winnowed to a group of 16 talented filmmakers. These finalists will be brought to Hollywood, where they will be divided into teams and will begin the journey toward their "big break."

16 lucky “undiscovered” filmmakers will be chosen to participate. Each week contestants will be given a new ‘genre’ challenge for which they will create a short film. With free industry resources such as writers, crew and possibly Hollywood celebrities at their fingertips,

## February 2007 Issue #2

filmmakers will craft and screen their films for a live audience. All films will be critiqued by industry experts, however, it will be the audience voting for their favourites and sending home those with fewest votes. The grand prize is a seven-figure feature film deal with DreamWorks and an office, "On the Lot!" It could be the big break you've been waiting for!

### HOW TO APPLY

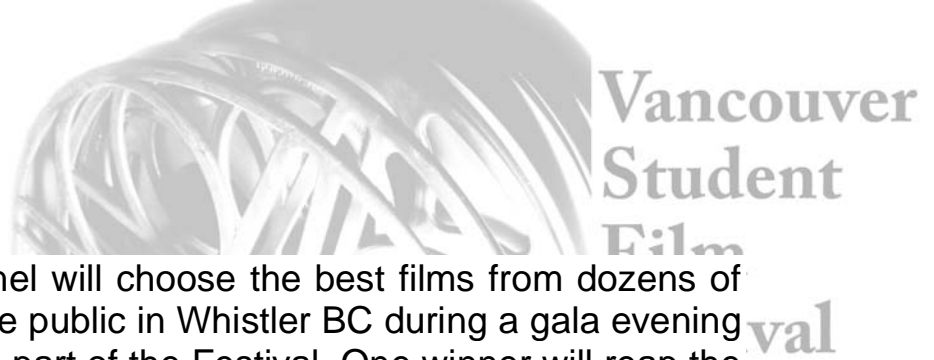
1. Applicants should submit both a 30-45 second "Intro Video" and a short film no more than five minutes in length.
2. Download application forms, including Application Rules and Requirements, Applicant Information Sheet and Submitted Materials Release, from the series website at [www.thelot.com](http://www.thelot.com).
3. Upload the video submission onto the series website, [www.thelot.com](http://www.thelot.com).
4. Mail a copy of the video submission on DVD or VHS, along with signed application forms, postmarked no later than **February 16, 2007**, to: On The Lot Submissions, P.O. Box 149, 9663 Santa Monica Boulevard, Beverly Hills, CA, 90210, USA.
5. Applicants under the age of 18 are required to send a signed parental consent form.
6. For full application details, visit [www.thelot.com](http://www.thelot.com)



### 72 HR FILMMAKER SHOWDOWN

Kicking off at the start of the **TELUS World Ski & Snowboard Festival**, filmmakers will have 72 hours to shoot, edit and produce a minimum 3 minute and a maximum 5 minute short film.

February 2007  
Issue #2



An esteemed review panel will choose the best films from dozens of entries to be shown to the public in Whistler BC during a gala evening on Tuesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> as part of the Festival. One winner will reap the rewards that this exposure will result in and **\$15,000 in prizes!** This event can provide that once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for a talent waiting to be recognized.

To register go to [www.whistler2007.com](http://www.whistler2007.com).



**OUT ON SCREEN**

**2007 QUEER FILM & VIDEO FESTIVAL**

Film submissions deadline is **April 1, 2007.**

For entry details, please visit

<http://www.outonscreen.com/content/Submissions/21/5>.



Call for submissions for **lesbian themed** short films.

Please visit <http://www.bestlesbianshortfilms.org/>.



**THE FILMSPACE seeks submissions**

Sound & Smoke TV, a newly launched TV business, is launching an independent film channel, THE FILMSPACE, dedicated to the independent filmmaker with an emphasis on Canadian artists and with the potential for filmmaker revenues.

For more information, visit [www.soundandsmoke.com](http://www.soundandsmoke.com).

February 2007  
Issue #2



Vancouver  
Student  
Film  
Festival

## UPCOMING FILM FESTIVALS

Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival, February 16-24,  
[www.vimff.org](http://www.vimff.org)

Rendez-vous Quebecois & French Film Festival, February 7-17,  
[www.rendez-vousvancouver.com](http://www.rendez-vousvancouver.com)

Reel to Real International Film Festival for Youth, February 23-March 2,  
[www.r2rfestival.org](http://www.r2rfestival.org)

Women in Film & Video Festival BC, March 8-11,  
[www.womeninfilm.ca](http://www.womeninfilm.ca)

Vancouver Jewish Film Festival, March 22-April 1, [www.vjff.org](http://www.vjff.org)

UVIC Sunscreen Short Film Festival: dates announced at  
<http://people.finearts.uvic.ca/~filmfest/>

Capilano Student Film Festival, April 21 & 26,  
[www.capcollege.bc.ca/programs/film/](http://www.capcollege.bc.ca/programs/film/)

POV UBC Student Film Festival: April 27-28, [www.film.ubc.ca/pov](http://www.film.ubc.ca/pov)

## VSFF CALL FOR VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

The following positions for the 2007 Vancouver Student Film Festival team are below. Duration and time commitment varies according to position.

### Web Administrator

Duties:

- Liaising with the Festival Organizers, you will post and maintain content such as text, graphics, and video on our website, [www.vsff.com](http://www.vsff.com).
- Reliability and quick turnaround time a must!!
- Permanent paid position for ongoing maintenance a possibility

February 2007  
Issue #2



### **Graphic Designer**

Duties:

- Liaising with the Marketing Director and external sponsors of the festival, you will design and amend eye-catching festival posters, postcards, online ads, and our annual festival programme.

### **Venue & Volunteer Coordinator**

Duties:

- Liaises between the Festival organizers, theatre personnel, and festival volunteers to ensure smooth operations throughout the festival.
- Seeks out, coordinates, and manages volunteers on-site to execute necessary tasks for each screening.

### **Marketing Assistant**

Duties:

- Liaising with the Marketing Director, you will assist in researching possible outlets and associated costs for promoting the festival, and contacting such outlets. This may include free attendance at other film festivals or summer events.
- Creating a campus and outdoor distribution strategy, gathering, and managing volunteers to execute the strategy.

### **Media Relations Assistant**

Duties:

- Liaising with the Marketing Director, you will assist in creating captivating news releases, PSAs, and the festival press kit to publicize the festival.
- You are friendly, persistent and familiar with film and/or event media and are available during the day in August and September to contact such outlets.

### **Fundraising & Awards Assistant (2 positions):**

- Assists in targeting, approaching, and cultivating funding or prize sponsorship from a variety of sources, both local and national.
- Assists in the creation of the fundraising package and supplying information for web-based sponsorship applications.
- Assists the Fundraising & Awards Coordinator in conceiving and coordinating award categories and prizes, and distributing prizes to winners.

February 2007  
Issue #2

Vancouver  
Student  
Film  
Festival

### After-party Planner:

- Liaising with the Festival organizers, you will conceive an after-party concept which includes venue, food, award distribution, and other possible elements. Creativity and party-loving is a must- this is the post-festival gathering of everyone involved in the festival!
- You can work within a set budget and enjoy working with people.
- You will coordinate with the Fundraising & Awards Coordinator and/or Assistants to execute corporate sponsorship of after-party elements.
- Liaising with the Venue & Volunteer Coordinator, you will manage volunteers to execute necessary tasks.

The VSFF is a great opportunity to meet people, help to run a grass-roots non-profit society and unique event on the West Coast, and to gain valuable experience in event planning, public relations, and theatre operations. We welcome any individuals who have a passion for supporting and viewing films! **FREE TICKETS** to festival screening(s) and references generously provided!

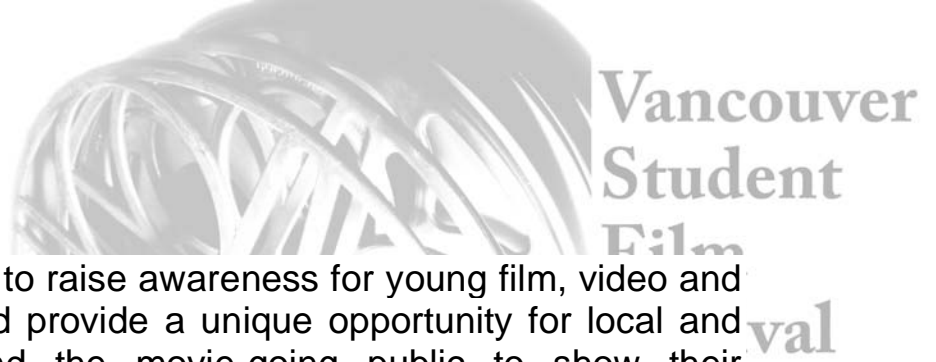
To apply for any positions or just to give us a helping hand, please email your resume to [apply@vsff.com](mailto:apply@vsff.com), or visit [http://vsff.com/volunteers\\_positions.php](http://vsff.com/volunteers_positions.php).

## VSFF MANDATE & BOARD MEMBERS

The concept behind the Vancouver Student Film Festival is to promote the already vibrant community of young Canadian filmmakers in the province. By showcasing the films of students and recent graduates from post secondary film institutions, we hope to enhance the lines of communication that currently exist and provide an arena where emerging current and former student filmmakers can show their films to the public, as well as meet and view the work of their fellow colleagues.

By hosting an afternoon trade forum in which professionals from the creative field can share expertise about their business, craft and other nuances surrounding the film industry, we aim to foster and nurture the rapport between industry leaders already well established in their field, and the next generation of filmmaking talent in BC.

## February 2007 Issue #2



The organizers continue to raise awareness for young film, video and new media pioneers and provide a unique opportunity for local and national businesses and the movie-going public to show their commitment to the BC student film community.

The VSFF is a registered non-profit society.

Executive Board Members: Mike Tanassee, Valerie Warner, Jun Paul Obayashi, Sandra Garcia, Brian Danin, Devon Cooke, Rita Farkas



Photo credit: Misha, Vizual Noize Photographie

## CLOSING NOTES

To submit articles, announcements, or news bytes for inclusion in the next VSFF newsletter, please email [sandra@vsff.com](mailto:sandra@vsff.com). Max. 300 words and no more than two photos or images, please. Deadline for May 2007 inclusion: **April 20, 2007**

To subscribe or unsubscribe to this e-newsletter, please email [sandra@vsff.com](mailto:sandra@vsff.com) with the appropriate word in the Subject line.

Special thank you to Women in Film & Video Vancouver, the First Weekend Club, and the UBC Film Program for news sources.