



VANCOUVER
SHORT
FILM FESTIVAL

October 2010

Issue #14

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VANCOUVER SHORT FILM FESTIVAL



10 days to go! We're so excited to announce the program for the
2nd Annual Vancouver Short Film Festival:

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28 – INTERNATIONAL ANIMATION DAY

2:45pm – **NFB's New Release Program** (FREE – first come, first served)

5:30pm – **Panel: Using Animation in your Short Film**

Featuring Mario Pochat, Emilie Goulet, Martin Rose, and Moderator Jeff Chiba Stearns

7:30pm – **Emerging Filmmakers Screening sponsored by ICBC**

Featuring the top films from BC's post-secondary students; **MC Marke Driesschen of CTV** in attendance.

Opening Reception and Emerging Filmmakers Awards Ceremony

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29

MC: Greg Kettner

2:30pm – **World's Best Shorts**

Featuring some of the top award-winning films from around the globe

5:00pm – **Best of VSFF's 5 Years Screening**

A retrospective of the festival's top films since its inception as the Vancouver Student Film Festival

7:30pm – **Professional Filmmakers Screening sponsored by Finale Editworks**

Featuring the best of BC's professional artists

Closing Party and Professional Filmmakers Awards Ceremony

Our Opening Reception, Closing Party, and Awards Ceremonies are free with ticket or pass purchase.

To purchase tickets or passes, visit www.VSFF.com. Door sales will be more expensive, so buy early!

VSFF would like to thank one of our newest media sponsors:

Visit Yelp at www.yelp.ca/vancouver

Feel free to review the 2010 VSFF on Yelp after the festival: www.yelp.ca/events/vancouver-vancouver-short-film-festival-2



ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEWS

Emily Carr Goes 3D



The Government of Canada recently announced it was giving Vancouver's Emily Carr University of Art & Design \$530,000 toward the purchase of equipment and the developing of its Stereoscopic 3D (S3D) Centre of Excellence in digital media and film technologies.

"British Columbia has a vibrant filmmaking industry and today's investment will provide the necessary resources so this industry can remain competitive in the West," said **Lynne Yelich**, federal Minister of State for Western Economic Diversification. Western Diversification spokesperson **Lisa Hutniak** said the S3D centre will be housed in Emily Carr's Intersections Digital Studios. She said the new initiative will "strengthen" Emily Carr's applied research and collaboration with industry and will result in the only western Canadian S3D filmmaking technology research and training program.

"We are grateful to the Government of Canada for recognizing the need for this type of investment," said **Dr. Ron Burnett**, Emily Carr President & Vice-Chancellor. "This funding will allow us to grow the capabilities of the Centre and lead the country in ground-breaking technology research, education and training." Hutniak said the investment will give the BC Film industry "a leading position" through training and applied research in production and post-production for S3D technology.

-- Excerpts from **Reel West Magazine** July/August 2010

Heading East before the fest? Check out:

**OTTAWA INTERNATIONAL
ANIMATION FESTIVAL**

OCTOBER 20 - 24, 2010

Join 40 European delegates in Ottawa for 5 days of meetings, panels, and networking amongst one of Canada's most renowned Animation festivals. www.animationfestival.ca

The articles reprinted in this issue in no way reflect the opinions of the members of the Vancouver Short Film Festival Society.

Money Shot: Online crowd funding brings indie filmmakers' dreams to life

So you want to make a film – and why not? Equipment is better and cheaper than ever, decent editing programs are practically free and there's no shortage of actors willing to exchange personal time for screen time. But still, no matter how much you beg, borrow, and steal, at some point you're going to have to shell out some actual cash. And for that, a growing number of independent filmmakers are turning to the social web.

Consider North Vancouver brothers **Matt and Mikey Granger**. After nearly a decade working on big-name films including *X-Men* and *Good Luck Chuck* and winning a short-film contest judged by Quentin Tarantino, the brothers, aged 37 and 29 respectively, figured they'd accrued some good karma that would help them produce their long-planned TV pilot, *The Charlie da Clown show...*

The solution came via one of their 550 Facebook fans, who suggested they set up an account on San Francisco-based Indie-GoGo.com (www.indie-gogo.com). Established in 2008, the site allows anyone to make financial contributions to creative projects, such as films, books and live performances, in exchange for perks such as production credits, free DVDs or homemade art. The site takes a 9% cut of funds raised if the campaign doesn't meet its goal and only 4% if the project does meet its goal. (The Grangers surpassed their goal handily, raising \$7,335 by the end of June.)

IndieGoGo has also proved handy for Port Coquitlam-based filmmaker **Timo Puolitaipale**, 37, who raised \$1,000, 10% of the budget, for his short film *Death Wish* through the site. (***Death Wish will show at the VSFF Professional Filmmakers screening at 7:30pm on October 29.***) He went back seeking another \$5,000 for a second film, *Monster*, winner of the 2010 Hot Shot Shorts short film contest organized by the Vancouver's Celluloid Social Club. The crowd funding has paid off for him, it's not for the lazy, Puolitaipale cautions... As an added plus, with a direct line to a built-in fan base, raising money this way beats filling out grant applications and stalking studio execs any day, says Puolitaipale. "It's more fun, and everyone's getting a lot out of it."

To read the full article, visit

www.bcbusinessonline.ca/bcb/business-sense/2010/08/04/indiegogo-brings-vancouver-indie-film-life

Source: Jessica Barrett for **BC Business**, August 2010

Cash-starved cultural sector is bad for business in BC

"This is the worst it's ever been," said **Violet Goosen**, general manager of the **Vancouver Chamber Choir**. It's one of many organizations reeling from provincial arts funding cuts described by **B.C. Arts Council** chairwoman **Jane Danzo** as "devastating" in her recent letter of resignation.

Oddly, for a government that prides itself on its business acumen, the **Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts** has decided to make up \$3 million of the missing funding by creating a new arts council-driven bureaucracy to run politically inspired Spirit Festivals – "to rekindle the pride and excitement experienced during the 2010 Games." Vancouver and Victoria are to be hoe to "Signature Celebrations coordinated by central organizations to be determined."

Showtime is imminent: February 2011.

"Starting a festival just to access a grant is the same as buying a rope to hang yourself with," said dancer and festival organizer **Jay Hirabayashi** in an online comment.

The ultimate purpose of hosting the Olympics was to stimulate tourism and the economy.

Cont'd on page 4

We know tourists and workers in creative industries are attracted to culture, which is why governments at all levels used the amazing Cultural Olympiad to show off Vancouver as a cultural hotbed. Now the province is undermining the same people who make that culture possible.

"People in the arts are leaving in droves," choreographer **Judith Marcuse** told CBC radio.

Provincial funding to the arts is down 32% to \$43 million this year, even after including the new Spirit Festival funding – and that's from a starting point of contributing only 7% of operating budgets of performing arts organizations the lowest in Canada, where the average is almost twice that. To put this in perspective, the new Clearbrook overpass on Highway No. 1 costs \$25 million.

The arts – let's say it again – return \$1.36 in direct revenue for every \$1 invested, employing 80,000 people in B.C. Government funding also leverages other grants and has vast social payoffs in uplifting lives, educating young people and enriching our understanding of each other and our society.

This is the worst time for these cuts, with corporate budgets shrinking and arts-supporting foundations reeling from low returns (including the government's own \$150 million BC 150 Cultural Fund), leaving many arts organizations unable to meet their traditional commitments.

The government has many happy faces it's trying to paste onto this fiasco, but when the intended beneficiaries are screaming and bleeding it's time for a change in direction.

--Excerpts from article by Peter Ladner, **Business in Vancouver**, August 31, 2010



Festivals keep indie film world alive

Independent theatre owners differ on value of investing in 3-D technology

Demand for festivals has spawned about two-dozen film festivals annually in Vancouver.

Home theatres and large TVs are cheaper than ever before, but that hasn't kept people from going to movies.

According to the **Motion Picture Association of America** (MPAA), Canadian and U.S. movie theatres draw nearly three times more people (1.414 billion) than do the two countries' theme parks and major sports leagues combined.

Independent films, however, attract only about 2.1% of box office receipts. Demand for 3-D films is the latest craze.

According to the MPAA, receipts for them in Canada and the U.S. grew 375.3% between 2008 and 2009 to US\$1.14 billion. Revenue for traditional 2-D films, conversely, grew 0.8% to US\$9.47 billion.

Local independent theatre owner **Leonard Schein** was alert to this trend when he decided in the summer of 2009 to spend \$130,000 on 3-D digital cinema projection technology that enabled him to show 3-D blockbusters *Avatar* and *Alice in Wonderland* at his **Park Theatre** on Cambie Street.

"We did it because it's difficult for single-screen theatres to compete with multiplexes," he told *Business in Vancouver*. MPAA data shows that only 4% of North American movie theatres are single-screen facilities.

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Regardless, the fastest growing sector within digital screens is 3-D. The number of digital screens worldwide more than tripled in 2009, reaching 8,989, or about 6% of the total.

Digital 3-D screens represent about 55% of the globe's digital screens.

The shift from showing content from film or video sources to digital technology in movie theatres has excited local entrepreneurs.

Surrey-based **Lightyear Digital Theatre (Canada) Ltd.** President **Robert Dominick** told *BIV* in August that he plans to launch a digital broadcast platform within the year that will enable movie theatres to stream digital content.

"If you go to your **Cineplex Odeon** theatre right now, you can see a movie and that's it," Dominick said. "If you go to a digital theatre, we can stream into that theatre content that you couldn't see in normal theatres."

The change would enable theatre owners to reap more revenue by renting their theatres to corporate groups and others who want to view digital content...[Lightyear Digital Theatre] subcontracts work to retrofit theatres.

It donated \$500,000 worth of work last year to upgrade a theatre to **Simon Fraser University's** Surrey campus to make it a high-definition, digital venue that can show 3-D projections.

--Excerpts from article by Glen Korstrom, **Business in Vancouver**, October 5, 2010

VIFF's film programmers reveal the do's and don'ts of festival submissions

Last month, **NSI Canada** blogger **Kellie Ann Benz** interviewed the **Vancouver International Film Festival's** Canadian Images Associate Programmer Stephanie Damgaard, and international shorts programmer Sandy Gow.

Check out the blog here:

www.nsi-canada.ca/viff_s_film_programmers_reveal_the_do_s_and_don_ts_of_festival_submissions.aspx

EVENTS & SCREENINGS

CineMuerte and the **Celluloid Social Club** present **BLOODSHOTS CANADA 2010: THE 48-HOUR HORROR FILMMAKING CHALLENGE!**

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN! REGISTRATION COSTS \$100 per team, payable via PayPal to

bigsmashproductions@gmail.com

www.myspace.com/bloodshotscanada

Filming Dates **Friday Oct. 22-Sunday Oct. 24**, 2010

Screening Date **Wednesday Oct. 27th**, 2010

7:30pm at **Celluloid Social Club** (3 West 8th Ave., Vancouver, Canada)

COME EARLY; SEATING IS LIMITED! Entry to the screening is \$5 and is NOT included in your registration fee!

The Celluloid Social Club, monthly screenings featuring the best in independent provocative short and feature films & videos followed by a Q&A. No Minors. Prizes galore.

FILMMAKING WIZARDRY with **Jana Williams**

Jana Williams provides a look at the movie-making process for first-time filmmakers.

Wednesday, October 20, 6:30pm

Vancouver Public Library Kitsilano Branch (2425 MacDonald). Info at 604-665-3976. www.vpl.ca

Check out the latest **Masters of Digital Media** student projects. A program information session and Q&A will be held, followed by a tour of the facility.

Register here:

<http://mdm.gnwc.ca/calendar/2010/10/21/mdm-open-house-oct-21-register-now>

DATE & TIME: Thursday, October 21, 2010 5:00pm - 7:00pm

LOCATION: Centre for Digital Media, 577 Great Northern Way, Vancouver, BC

OPERATION BABYLIFT

Thursday, October 21, 7:30 p.m.

Alma VanDusen Room, Lower Level

VPL Central Library, 350 West Georgia St.

Admission is free. Seating is limited.

DVDs available for sale at screening for \$25.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=153356698038074

OPERATION BABYLIFT was a \$2 million US initiative that airlifted over 2,500 Vietnamese orphans out of a war-torn country in 1975 to protect them from the impending threat of the Communist Regime. This documentary takes a candid look at a significant, yet untold event that took place nearly thirty-five years ago as seen through the eyes of the volunteers, parents, and organizations directly involved. Don't miss out on this touching film!

SUBMISSIONS**2011 WOMEN IN FILM FESTIVAL
CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS**

The **2011 Women In Film Festival** is looking for short and feature film submissions in all genres. All independent filmmakers (women and men) are encouraged to apply.

Eligible films must have **THREE** of the following (one woman may serve in more than one role): a woman as Writer, a woman as Producer, a woman as Director, a woman as D.O.P., a woman as Lead Actor, or a woman as Lead Animator / Editor.

The final submission deadline is **November 1, 2010**. For more information about eligibility criteria and how to submit, please visit:

www.womeninfilm.ca/WIFF_2011_Film_Submissions.html or contact filmfestival@womeninfilm.ca.

Blog: www.womeninfilmfestival.blogspot.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/WomenInFilm

Twitter: www.twitter.com/WIFF2011

vancouver
WOMEN
in film festival
March 4-8, 2011

The VSFF thanks Women In Film & Television (WIFTV) for renewing the **WIFTV Award for Best Female Director in a Professional Short Film** at this year's VSFF!



VANCOUVER
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Facebook Group:
www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=46723655335

On Youtube:
www.youtube.com/vanshortfilmfestival

VANCOUVER SHORT FILM FESTIVAL E-Newsletter



It's **NSI Online Short Film Festival** submission time once again! Films must be less than 30 minutes. Drama, comedy, animation, short documentaries and experimental films are all eligible and must be Canadian. If your film is selected to play in the festival, you have a chance to win the **\$2,500 A&E Short Filmmakers Award**. Get your film/s to us by **Monday, November 15, 2010** at 2:30 p.m. PST.

WIDC 2011 CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

NEW Women in the Director's Chair Workshop

Actor / Crew Deadline: **November 30, 2010**

Applications and criteria are available at www.creativewomenworkshops.com or by emailing carol@creativewomenworkshops.com

Nearly 1,000 directors, actors and crew have attended WIDC since 1997.

60% of director alumnae reported advances in their careers and projects this

UPCOMING FILM FESTIVALS

FESTIVAL	DATES	WEBSITE
Moving Stories Film Festival (at Vancouver International Writer's Festival)	October 26	www.movingstoriesfilmfest.com
Bloodshots 48-hour Filmmaking Contest	October 27	www.myspace.com/bloodshotscanada
VANCOUVER SHORT FILM FESTIVAL	October 28-29	www.vsff.com
Heavy Hitting Films B-Grade Horror	October 30	www.heavyhitting.com
Vancouver Asian Film Festival	November 4-7	www.vaff.org
Zoomfest 48 Hour Student Film Festival	November 5-7	www.zoomfest.com
Vancouver Serbian Film Festival	November 9-12	www.vsfilmfest.com
Vancouver Jewish Film Festival	November 9-18	www.vjff.org
Amnesty International Film Festival	November 18-21	www.amnesty.ca/filmfest
Trick 17 Stop Motion Film Competition	November 22	www.trick17stopmotion.com
Whistler Film Festival	December 1-5	www.whistlerfilmfestival.com

Got news?

To submit articles, announcements, or news bytes for inclusion in the next VSFF newsletter, please send an email to sandra@vsff.com. Max. 300 words and no more than two photos or images, please. Deadline for January 2011 inclusion: **December 31, 2010**.