

OMDC: "Culture is our Business." Promoting growth and investment in Ontario's book and magazine publishing, film and television, music and interactive digital media industries

Culture Minister Promotes Ontario's Creative Industries And Artists in Ottawa

On December 4, a delegation led by Ontario Minister of Culture Caroline Di Cocco appeared before the Canadian Radio and Television Commission (CRTC) to encourage them to adopt incentives to help Ontario's creative industry move toward high definition and other emerging technologies. The Ontario delegation also included Stephen Stohn, board member of the Ontario Media Development Corporation (OMDC), Kristine Murphy, Acting CEO, OMDC and Steven Davidson, ADM Culture, Ministry of Culture.

The public hearings are being held to review aspects of the regulatory framework for over-the-air television. "We are participating in these hearings because over-the-air (OTA) broadcasters provide major-market access and much-needed exposure for Ontario's, and Canada's, creative content," Minister Di Cocco said. "Ontario is home to the largest critical mass of media and production in Canada. Our creative communities – from producers to writers, musicians, performers and other artists – contribute to, and benefit from, this sector's vitality."

While the Ministry of Culture and OMDC submitted separate submissions to the CRTC's review, the joint appearance at the hearing was a collaborative effort to highlight the common points in each submission in support of Ontario's role in the Canadian broadcasting system. OMDC's submission focused on four major themes:

- the need for an integrated federal broadcasting policy;
- support for expenditure requirements on Canadian programming and the expectation that an average of 75% of priority programming is produced by inde-

pendent production companies;

- support for the current CRTC benefits policy for transfers of ownership; and
- the transition to digital and high-definition television (HDTV).

Ontario's development strategy emphasizes partnerships, innovation, and research and development. Highlights of the Ministry of Culture's CRTC submission include:

- a preference for incentives over regulation in the transition to HD technologies;
- support for the Commission's current benefits policy, which encourages risk-taking, supports targeted research and development activities, and provides capital for promising new projects to support a globally competitive Canadian content sector; and
- support for the introduction of an expenditure requirement.

"OMDC is proud of our ability to support Ontario's independent production companies as they continue to demonstrate their eagerness and ability to embrace emerging technologies and to produce innovative content. These companies play a pivotal role in Canadian broadcasting," said Stephen Stohn.

"My ministry and the OMDC are working hard to promote Canadian content and the best interests of Ontario's creative industries and artists," Minister Di Cocco concluded.

The OMDC's submission to the CRTC can be viewed at www.omdc.on.ca. The Ministry of Culture's submission to the CRTC can be viewed online at www.culture.gov.on.ca.

Happy Holidays! All newsletter recipients will be receiving a copy of OMDC's animated holiday greetings in a separate email. The card can also be viewed on our website www.omdc.on.ca

OMDC News, Deadlines and Supported Events

Dec. 15 | **New Media Business Alliance (NMBA) iLunch 5.02: The Creative Factor.** Created in partnership with the Writers Guild of Canada (WGC, www.wgc.ca), this session will feature conversations with leaders in both the television and interactive space about the writing and development process involved in creating integrated interactive and television properties. For full details, please visit the website at

nmba.ca/casestudies.html.

Jan. 12 | **Deadline for OMDC Film Fund.** Deliver your entry by 5 p.m. on January 12 to OMDC, 5th Floor, South Tower, 175, Bloor St. E., Toronto. For applications and guidelines go to www.omdc.on.ca under Programs/ Content and Marketing Support/ OMDC Film Fund.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Ontario filmmakers on the festival circuit! On November 29, **Sundance Film Festival** announced that seven Canadian feature length films will be screened this year, including two OMDC Film Fund supported films. ***How She Move***, directed by Ian Iqbal Rashid, will receive its world premiere, and Sarah Polley's feature ***Away From Her*** will have its US premiere. In addition, Jennifer Baichwal's acclaimed documentary ***Manufactured Landscapes*** will receive its US premiere and S. Wyeth Clarkson's ***Sk8 Life*** will receive its international premiere. For the complete list of Canadian films programmed at Sundance go to www.telefilm.gc.ca.

In other festival news, OMDC Film Fund recipient ***Weirdsville***, directed by Allan Moyle, has been selected as the Opening night film for the **2007 Slamdance Film Festival**.

Remembering Arthur, directed by Martin Lavut, has been officially selected for the Canadian Front: New Films at the Museum of Modern Art, New York City, in March 2007. ***Remembering Arthur*** has also been selected as Film: Best Of 2006 by **ARTFORUM Magazine**, December 2006 by Barbara London, Associate Curator of Media at the Museum of Modern Art, New York City

Rob Stewart's feature documentary ***Sharkwater*** garnered three prestigious awards at Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival, including Best Documentary, Audience Favourite Award and Spirit of Independents

Award. Check out sharkwater.com for more information on the film.

On December 4, Women in Film and Television-Toronto (WIFT-T) presented the **2006 Crystal Awards** at a Gala Luncheon, hosted by Dina Pugliese. Pamela Wallin, broadcaster and former Consul General of Canada in New York, was the Honorary Alumni Chair of the 2006 awards presentation. Ontario's finest were the featured stars – here are their awards:

- Outstanding Achievement Award, presented in association with CanWest MediaWorks went to Christina Jennings, Chair and Co-CEO of Shaftesbury Films Inc.
- Creative Excellence Award, presented in association with NBC Universal went to Jennifer Baichwal, Director, Producer.
- Phyllis Switzer Mentorship Award, presented in association with CHUM Limited, went to Karen Gelbart, Senior Vice President, Content, Lifestyle Channels, Alliance Atlantis Communications Inc.
- Crystal Jury Award went to Jeanne Beker, Host and Segment Producer, FT-Fashion Television and Fashion Television Channel.
- CTV International Achievement Award went to Linda Schuyler, CEO, Epitome Pictures.

For the complete list of Crystal Award winners go to www.wift.com.

Upcoming Events & Industry Deadlines

Get the latest on jobs available in your industry and scope for interesting jobs in related industries on www.workinculture.ca, an informative site from the Cultural Careers Council of Ontario. The resource also includes a wide range of tip sheets and templates to help you get a great job and be a more effective employee and manager.

Dec. 15 | **The Great Canadian Video Game Competition.** Telefilm, in partnership with the new media industry, has launched an innovative competition to create the next great Canadian video game. The first of its kind, this initiative will elevate the commercial profile of Canadian-owned gaming companies and help grow the industry. The Competition is encouraging eligible game development companies to register online at www.telefilm.gc.ca/game by December 15, 2006.

Jan. 10 | **6th Annual Tokyo Anime Awards Competition.** This competition, sponsored by the Tokyo International Anime Fair, has two broad entry categories: "Nominated Works", and "Submitted Works". The Awards Ceremony will take place during the Tokyo International Anime Fair (March 22 to 25, 2007). For more details visit www.tokyoanime.jp/en/

Jan. 12 | Deadline for letters of nomination for the **Tom Fairley Award for Editorial Excellence.** Supporting documentation and administration fees are due January 26. Nominate an editor who has made an outstanding contribution to a work published in Canada in English or French during the 2006 calendar year. Self-nominations are encouraged. For complete nomination instructions and additional information about the award, see www.editors.ca/tomfairley/index.html.

Jan. 22 | **National Screen Institute (NSI) - Exposure Amateur.** The NSI National Exposure Amateur Movie Contest 2007 challenges non-professional filmmakers to write, direct and even act in their own five-minute masterpiece, which could premiere at the NSI

FilmExchange Canadian Film Festival and earn filmmakers over \$1,000 in prize money. For more info visit www.nsi-Canada.ca.

Feb. 2-6 | **Magazines Canada School for Circulation.** For small-circulation and new publications, designed to maximize learning about circulation strategies and provide opportunities for practical skill application. Topics include circulation sources, source evaluation, subscription renewals and requests and modeling/budgeting. Held at the Pillar & Post Inn, Spa and Conference Centre, Niagara-on-the-Lake. magazinescanada.ca

Feb. 7 | Come visit the **MyMediaBiz Networking Event** at Insomnia Café (563 Bloor St. W., Toronto) from 5:30 to 8 p.m. All MyMediaBiz.com members are eligible to win great door prizes. MyMediaBiz.com is the essential online community designed by people in the film and television and, recently, the new media/digital industries. The website has searchable information broken down into the following categories: directories, news, events, resources, and jobs. Come network with your peers and spread the word. Please RSVP prior to February 7, 2007 to RSVP_001@mymediabiz.com if you wish to attend.

March 19-25 | **China Access** excursion to Hong Kong and Shanghai with an optional weekend in Beijing. This program includes attendance at the 7th Digital Entertainment Leadership Forum (DELFF) at the Hong Kong Cyberport on March 21, 2007. The program focus is The Art of F/X and Digital Storytelling. This event takes place during Entertainment Expo, which includes FILMART, Hong Kong, Asia Film Financing Forum (HAF), Hong Kong International Film Festival (HKIFF), Hong Kong Film Awards (HKFA) and the Independent Short Film and Video Awards (IFVA). The total cost for the program is US\$1,000. Participants pay their own RT travel to China, local flights in China plus hotel and other local expenses. For more information contact Hal Josephson at haljo@mac.com.

E-mail your news and events by the third Thursday of each month to newsletter@omdc.on.ca

To add or remove yourself from this newsletter list, e-mail Hodan Waberi at hwaberi@omdc.on.ca

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The contents of this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of OMDC

Mark Your Calendar For 2007

Jan. 10-13	BETT, The Education Technology Show, London, UK. bettshow.com
Jan. 15-18	NATPE, Las Vegas, Nevada. natpe.org
Jan. 21-25	MIDEM, Cannes, France. midem.com
Jan. 28	Songwriters Hall of Fame Awards, Toronto. cansong.ca
Jan. 29-31	RealScreen Summit, Washington, D.C. realscreensummit.com
Jan. 31-Feb. 3	Ontario Library Association Super Conference, Toronto. accessola.com
Feb. 7-9	D.I.C.E - Design, Innovate, Communicate, Entertain, Henderson, Nevada. dicesummit.org
Feb. 7-9	KidScreen Summit, New York City. kidscreensummit.com
Feb. 11-14	American International Toy Fair, New York City. toyfairny.com
Feb. 12-15	3GSM World Congress (mobile communications conference), Barcelona, Spain. 3GSMworldcongress.com
Feb. 13	27th Annual Genie Awards, Toronto. www.academy.ca
Feb. 14- 17	7th Annual Brampton Indie Arts Festival Rose Theatre, Brampton, Ont. biaf.ca
Feb. 21-23	CFTPA Prime Time in Ottawa. cftpa.ca
Mar. 5-9	Game Developers Conference, San Francisco, California. gdconf.com
Mar. 7-10	25th Canadian Music Week, Toronto. cmw.net/cmw2007/index.asp
Mar. 9-18	South by Southwest, Austin, Texas. 2007.sxsw.com
Mar. 22-25	Tokyo International Anime Fair, Tokyo, Japan. tokyoanime.jp/en
Mar. 23-April 1	Cinefranco –10th Annual Celebration of International Francophone Cinema, Toronto. cinefranco.com
Mar. 27-29	CTIA Wireless 2007, Orlando, Florida. ctiawireless.com
Apr. 1	Juno Awards. Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. junoawards.ca