

Quentin Lee

Production company(ies)

Margin Films Ltd.

Short biography of producer (or producer team)

Winner of 2024 Canadian Screen Awards and the 2020 Roddenberry Foundation Impact Awards for TV creators, a member of the Producers Guild of America, Canadian Media Producers Association and Academy of Television Arts & Sciences (Directors and Producers Peer Group) and a two-time recipient of Canada Council Media Arts grants, Quentin Lee is a multimedia creator and has directed and produced over ten feature films and created over three TV series. His first feature Shopping For Fangs (co-directed with Justin Lin) premiered at Toronto International Film Festival and became a cult classic as part of the Asian American New Wave Class of 1997. His latest Canadian Content TV series Comedy Invasion won Best Comedy Special at the 2024 Canadian Screen Awards.

Filmography of applicant(s) - include title and year and/or a link to your IMDb page(s)

<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0004250>

Name of qualifying feature film

Rez Comedy

Expected release date in 2024:

October 11, 2024

Through which distribution model is your qualifying film expected to be released:

Theatrical

Name of theatrical distributor, film festival or streaming service releasing or exhibiting qualifying film:

Margin Films Ltd.

Film synopsis

Rez Comedy is the first all Indigenous and all Canadian stand-up comedy documentary concert feature where 8 diverse Indigenous comics each perform a short set hosted by

Keith Nahanee, star of "Comedy Invasion: Rez Style" which won Best Comedy Special at the 2024 Canadian Screen Awards.

The inspiration: why was this an important film to make?

The feature was originally developed as a TV series funded into development by APTN and CMF. When APTN dropped the series from production, I loaned a portion of my son's college fund into the company to turn it into an independent feature with 9 of the original cast of the series.

The making-of: how did this film come together? What were the highlights/challenges of producing this film?

The main challenge was no one supported the film even when the team got a 2024 Canadian Screen Award nomination for Best Comedy Special. ISO turned the project down for funding. Creative BC turned the feature down for funding. Telefilm's Talent to Watch deemed the feature ineligible due to its genre. Canada Council for the Arts deemed the feature ineligible due to its genre. I had no choice but to put in some of my 8-year-old son's college fund to finance the production on a loan.

National pride: describe what uniquely defines you as a Canadian producer.

All my films and series are about the search for identity which is an important theme to the Canadian identity, defining me as a producer. Also take-no-for-an-answer DIY spirit of pioneering Canadian filmmakers define me to this date.

What defines your body of work?

The constant search for identity whether it is emotional or cultural runs through all my works which all center BIPOC and/queer main characters.

What defines you as a leader in Canadian independent production?

Fearlessness and willing to finish a project at any responsible cost defines me as a leader in Canadian and independent media production.