

Indiescreen

Fall 2016
Inaugural TIFF issue!

Your definitive guide to the phenomenal content
created by Canada's independent media producers

LYRIQ BENT

The Canadian Screen Award winner
on why this country is becoming a
global production power player

What do Canadians want (to watch)?
We have the answers inside

And the nominees are...

Check out who's up for the 2016 CMPA
Feature Film Producer Awards at TIFF





Pictured (top to bottom): *Black Code*, *Giants of Africa*, *Nelly*

Pictured (top to bottom): *X Quinientos*, *Maudie*, *Malignitit (Searchers)*

Pictured (top to bottom): *Mean Dreams*, *Anatomy of Violence*, *Pays*

THE CMPA Leads negotiations with unions, broadcasters and funders
Explores new digital and international business models
Builds opportunities for established and emerging content creators

Through international delegations, best-in-class professional development, mentorship programs and more, the CMPA advances the interests of Canada's indie producers. We see a bright future for Canadian production. Join us. Make it happen. cmpa.ca/membership



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LYRIQ BENT

The Canadian Screen Award winner on Canada's talent

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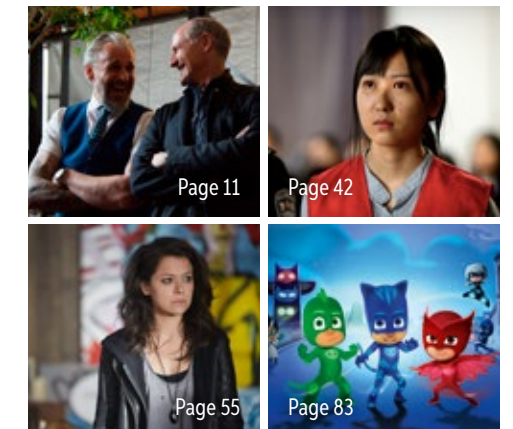
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Indiescreen

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I love September in Toronto. The heat and humidity of summer begins to give way to the crisp temperatures of fall. Students, both eager and apprehensive, flood the sidewalks, ready to launch into a new year of study. And the world's leading actors, directors and producers travel here to promote their newest projects at the Toronto International Film Festival.

As we launch our inaugural TIFF issue of *Indiescreen*, I'm struck by how the back-to-school spirit of September still inspires me to both reflect on the past and anticipate the future.

Last April, Canada's independent producers bid farewell to three of our sector's most influential pioneers, with the passing of Hugh Faulkner, Michael Spencer and Ralph C. Ellis.

A minister in Pierre Elliott Trudeau's inaugural cabinet, Hugh Faulkner was the original champion of Canadian content. Among his cultural accomplishments, he promoted film production in Canada by allowing producers to deduct financing for feature films that were "certified" Canadian. In many ways this was the foundation on which our modern domestic film industry was built.

In 1967 Michael Spencer became the first executive director of the Canadian Film Development Corporation, known today as Telefilm. Spencer believed fiercely in the importance of an independent Canadian film industry that was distinct from Hollywood. In his role at CDFC, he helped countless directors and producers from across the country access funding to get their projects off the ground.

Finally, Ralph C. Ellis can credibly be called Canada's original independent producer. Following a number of years at the National Film Board, he launched his own production and distribution companies and went on to produce hundreds of hours of programming, aired by television networks in Canada and around the world. His success paved the way for our thriving film and TV sectors, which last year alone generated close to \$9 billion in domestic GDP and created 150,000 jobs.

Faulkner, Spencer, Ellis: these were men of their time who helped make Canada's media production industry what it is today. But they were just that: men of their time. As our industry looks forward, it's exciting to see a new diversity starting to take hold, reflecting the unique and varied individuals who make up our great country.

Among this group, no one is better placed to have a major impact on Canada's film and television sector than Federal Heritage Minister Mélanie Joly. With the launch of the country's first sweeping cultural policy review in a generation, Minister Joly stands to be the most influential policy-maker for independent producers since Faulkner. Given early indications, I'm optimistic that this review will set independent producers on a path to continued success, allowing us to take advantage of the digital shift underway, so we can share our stories with Canadians and the world.

I'm proud to say the pages of this issue of *Indiescreen* truly reflect the sector's growing diversity. With our cover story on the rise of Lyriq Bent and his work with producers Sudz Sutherland and Jennifer Holness (pg. 8); our interviews with influential producers Jillianne Reinseth from eOne (pg. 74) and Kim Todd from Original Pictures (pg. 31); and our look at the motivations and challenges behind *Taken*, a series that boldly aims to tell the hard stories of Canada's missing and murdered Aboriginal women (pg. 48), we can see indications of an industry headed in the right direction.

But this is just the beginning. And I think we can all agree that there is still work to be done. In line with this, "Changing the channel for women in production" (pg. 72) outlines the CMPA's objective in commissioning new research to identify global best practices that have helped women advance their careers in film and television. I am very much looking forward to the release of these results early next year.

It's an honour, as well as a testament to the skill and ability of Canada's feature film producers, that the naming of the CMPA's 2016 Feature Film Award recipients will mark the official launch of this year's Toronto International Film Festival.

So, as Toronto's grey sidewalks get covered in red carpets, I encourage you to get out and see films made by Canada's diverse and talented filmmakers.

See you in the rush line. 🍁

Reynolds Mastin
President and CEO, CMPA



THE BIG PICTURE

A look at TV, film and media across Canada



AND THE NOMINEES ARE...

For more than a decade, the CMPA Feature Film Producer Awards has recognized excellence among Canada's indie feature-film producers.

On August 23, the nominees for the 2016 award were announced. This year, for the first time ever, two awards will be handed out: the first, awarded to an established producer, will recognize an individual for their entire body of work; the second will be awarded to an emerging producer, identified as "one to watch" with a promising career ahead.

To be eligible for the awards, nominees must have a least one film selected for screening at TIFF this year.

Winners will be announced in Toronto on September 8, as part of the opening of the festival.

CMPA Feature Film Producer Award • Emerging Producer Nominees



Fanny-Laure Malo

Company: La Boîte à Fanny

Film at TIFF: *Pays (Boundaries)*

Over the course of her brief career, Fanny-Laure Malo has produced over a dozen short films that have been selected for screening at film festivals around the world, including Sundance and Telluride. In 2013, Malo's debut feature *Sarah préfère la course*, directed by Chloé Robichaud, was an official selection for the prestigious "Un Certain Regard" section at the Cannes Film Festival. It was also selected as a TIFF Top Ten film that year. *Pays (Boundaries)*, also directed by Robichaud, is the pair's third collaboration.



Jonathan Frantz

Company: Kingulliit Productions

Film at TIFF: *Maliglutit (Searchers)*

Jonathan Frantz's career in film began with producing community-based media in Vancouver, as a tool to support local economic development, promote culture and entertain audiences. In 2012, Frantz and his family moved to Igloolik, Nunavut, to learn the Isuma filmmaking style under the tutelage of Norman Cohn and famed Inuk director Zacharias Kunuk. After three years of mentorship, Frantz and Kunuk begun work on a new dramatic film: *Maliglutit (Searchers)*. Kunuk's first feature film, *Atanarjuat: The Fast Runner*, was the 2001 winner of the Caméra d'Or at Cannes.



Hany Ouichou

Company: Art & Essai

Films at TIFF: *Ceux qui font les révolutions à moitié n'ont fait que se creuser un tombeau (Those Who Make Revolution Halfway Only Dig Their Own Graves); Prank*

Born in Montreal, Hany Ouichou was raised in Morocco; at the age of 17, he returned to Canada to study philosophy and film production at the Université de Montréal. He founded the production company Art & Essai in 2012 and has since gone on to produce a number of short films. In 2015, Ouichou was selected to be part of the Berlinale Talent Lab campus and received a SODEC grant for the Producers Network at Cannes, as an emerging producer. Ouichou has produced two feature films, both of which were selected for presentation at this year's TIFF.

CMPA Feature Film Producer Award • Established Producer Nominees



Roger Frappier

Company: Max Films

Film at TIFF: *Two Lovers and a Bear*

For 30 years, Roger Frappier has been an important member of Quebec's production community and has been instrumental in putting Quebec cinema on the world map. Over the course of his career, he has worked with an impressive number of critically acclaimed filmmakers, including Denys Arcand (*Le Déclin de l'empire américain*), Lyne Charlebois (*Borderline*) and Jean-François Pouliot (*La Grande Séduction*). Frappier's extensive experience has helped him appreciate the importance of working closely with a director to ensure they both share the same vision; it is only through a true partnership with the director that success can be realized.



Peter Raymont

Company: White Pine Pictures

Film at TIFF: *All Governments Lie: Truth, Deception and the Spirit of I.F. Stone*

With more than four decades of experience, Peter Raymont has produced and directed over 100 films and series. Raymont's productions incorporate a passion for human rights and social justice, and are often provocative investigations of the "hidden worlds" in politics, the media and big business. His productions have received 52 international awards, including 13 Geminis, Gold and Silver Hugos, the Sesterce d'Argent and an Emmy. Raymont cares deeply about Canada and believes we have much to offer in these difficult times of global intolerance, extremes of wealth and environmental collapse.



Nicholas de Pencier

Company: Mercury Films Inc.

Film at TIFF: *Black Code*

Nicholas de Pencier is a producer and director with experience in documentary, performing arts and dramatic film. He has produced a number of critically acclaimed feature films and documentaries, including *One Week*, *Watermark* and *Manufactured Landscapes*. De Pencier strongly believes that the outside pressures of the marketplace must be kept from influencing the work itself, a task he describes as increasingly difficult given the increased competition for funding that producers face today.



David Hamilton

Company: Hamilton-Mehta Productions

Film at TIFF: *Anatomy of Violence*

For the past 20 years, David Hamilton has produced Deepa Mehta's critically acclaimed films, as well as the feature documentary *The Forgotten Women* and the comedy *Cooking with Stella*. His films take a humanist view and focus on exploring the challenges that people face in a cross-cultural world. Hamilton believes the films, at their core, are about respecting diversity and understanding the complex lives we all live. He takes pride in producing films with narratives that take the point of view of strong female characters, and has also worked throughout his career to promote the talents of a new generation of multicultural actors.



Nicole Robert

Company: Go Films

Film at TIFF: *Nelly*

Over the course of her career Nicole Robert has produced 28 feature films. Her work has screened at over 150 film festivals around the world and has won numerous domestic and international awards. Robert's career is defined by her ability to produce art films that appeal to a broad audience. This philosophy is demonstrated by the fact that many of her productions have grossed well over \$1 million. Robert is also recognized as an individual who takes pride in discovering new talent and helping first-time writers, directors and actors get their start in the sector.

The CMPA would like to thank the members of the 2016 CMPA Feature Film Producer Awards selection jury:

Tantoo Cardinal – Actor; **Maxime Giroux** – Director; **Robert Lantos** (Jury Chair) – Producer, Serendipity Point Films; **Aeschylus Poulos** – Producer, Hawkeye Pictures; **Julia Rosenberg** – Producer, January Films

NORTH STAR RISING

Lyriq Bent's
growing
success is
good news
for Canada

Lyriq Bent takes a lot of inspiration from Drake.

The star of the critically acclaimed series *Book of Negroes* admires the actor-turned-rapper, and not just because of his world-wide success. Bent considers Drake to be a positive influence on Canadian culture – he's built up an international presence, but has never once forgotten where he's come from. In fact, as his fame has grown, Drake has put his nationality front and centre.

And Bent wants to do the same thing for Canadian productions. The Jamaican-born, Toronto-raised actor didn't initially consider pursuing a career in film or television. He originally went to school to study computer graphic design, but before he got a toehold in the world of digital design, he took up acting.

He started with background roles and smaller guest appearances on TV shows, but in 2001 Bent was cast as a disabled gangster in an episode of *Blue Murder*, where he worked with then-emerging writer Sudz Sutherland. It was the first major TV role for both of them, and they would go on to forge one of Bent's longest-running and successful professional relationships.

After *Blue Murder*, his presence on the big screen started to grow, with credits on *Honey*, *Four Brothers* and, most notably, on the *Saw* franchise (*Saw II*, *III*, *IV*). His character on the successful horror series would survive two more films, which was no small feat in the gruesome slasher chain. He closed out his run with a leading role in the fourth and final sequel, as Detective Riggs.

It was after this four-year run that Bent's career really hit its stride. In 2009, he worked again with writer/director Sutherland and his writing/producing partner Jennifer Holness, starring alongside Colm Feore and Elisha Cuthbert as the lead in the mini-series *Guns*, which explored how illegal arms were being transported into Toronto.

"We were looking for someone who has a lot of strength and a real presence," Holness says. "Lyriq came to mind and we immediately knew he would be perfect."

The trio would continue to work together on a number of projects, including the independent 2012 feature film *Home Again*, in which Bent starred as Dunston Williams, a New York gangster deported back to Jamaica despite having left that country as a child. In their most recent project, Bent stars as detective Kevin Lutz on the upcoming drama *Shoot the Messenger*, a ripped-from-the-headlines police procedural set to debut on CBC in the fall. The series is getting a lot of hype and has already sold internationally.



Lyriq Bent stars in a music video for R&B duo DVSN, repped by Drake's label OVO



Lyriq Bent with Sudz Sutherland on the set of *Shoot the Messenger*

Continued on page 10 →



Lyriq Bent and his co-star Elyse Levesque in *Shoot the Messenger*

“I’m their Johnny Depp and they’re my Tim Burton,” Bent says of Sutherland and Holness with a laugh. “We grew up together in this industry.”

Of course, it’s Bent’s recent work on the mini series *Book of Negroes*, earning him a Canadian Screen Award for Best Dramatic Leading Actor, which has people talking.

The Canada/South Africa treaty co-production, also starring Academy Award winners Cuba Gooding Jr. and Louis Gossett Jr., picked up critical acclaim with a 77 per cent average review rating on *Metacritic*. *The Globe and Mail* called it “must-see television.”

“[It’s] put pressure on me for my next project,” he says. “[It] not only set a high standard for me personally, but for the industry in Canada, in terms of quality content we put out there.”

“Toronto has the best crews and top talent in North America, and we’ve proven that over the years.”
– Lyriq Bent

This is a recurring theme for Bent: Canada has always been a power player in the media scene, he says, but it’s often gone under the radar, which has left many stars feeling they can’t build a career at home. In response, Bent is working to leverage his rising star power to encourage production on his home turf.

“Not because it’s cheaper – though that helps,” he says. “I know Toronto has the

Lyriq Bent is managed by Gorav Seth of Seth Management.

Canada Rising

Jennifer Holness – writer, producer, showrunner and *Shoot the Messenger* co-creator – on why Canada’s independent producers are punching above their weight on the world stage



“Growing up” in the Canadian industry, there’s been this vague sense that we’re the less attractive stepsister, comparing ourselves to the money and slick productions that come out of the US.

But things are definitely changing. There’s a noticeable levelling of the playing field because we really know what we’re doing. We have great crews, beautiful locations and wonderful talent. We also have great stories to tell that audiences want to hear. So, yeah, we are definitely coming into our own.

I also believe that we are very good at telling global stories, diverse stories, stories that connect with audiences on deeper human level, which is important when creating content that competes on the world stage.

It’s what we’re doing with *Shoot the Messenger*. And it’s why I’m really excited to be a part of this amazing wave of global content.

best crews and top talent in North America, and we’ve proven that over the years. We have this stigma of being a service provider, and that’s always bothered me because I think it’s stifling to Canadian talent. I want [my work] to be recognized as Canadian content from creator-to-grave so there’s no mistaking our talent.”

Sutherland respects the fact that Bent has never forgotten where he comes from, noting that the actor often gives talks at local schools and also is active in promoting his work on Canadian soil. Sutherland points to the 2012 TIFF *Home Again* premiere and theatrical release, in which Bent participated in a number of screening Q&As with fans.

“He has a commitment to building the audience,” Sutherland says. “He also understands he has an audience – there are a lot of actors who don’t understand they have a lot of love here, [but] you need to develop it.”

Bent notes that the times are changing. The Canadian film-and-television-scape is producing ever more critically acclaimed shows, and the national scene is starting to develop its own Canadian star system, which will inevitably help productions succeed, not only at home but also abroad.

“There’s a saying that the biggest trick the devil pulled was convincing the world he didn’t exist,” he says. “That’s what Canada is to North America sometimes. Americans may act like we don’t exist, but when they see the talent, they scoop it up and claim it as their own. The talent has always been there, but now Canadians are starting to believe in themselves.” 🍀

Canadian Film



The 9th Life of Louis Drax

Production companies: Brightlight Pictures, Blank Tape Fire (US), Axe Pictures (US)
Location of principal photography: Vancouver, BC
Writers: Liz Jensen, Max Minghella
Director: Alexandre Aja
Key cast: Jamie Dornan, Sarah Gadon, Aaron Paul, Aiden Longworth

Based on the novel by Liz Jensen, *The 9th Life of Louis Drax* centres on a psychologist who, in trying to help a young boy who’s suffered an almost fatal fall, becomes increasingly entangled in a mystery that disrupts his sense of reality.



22 Chaser

Production companies: Scythia Films, Don Carmody Productions, Hawkeye Pictures
Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON
Writer: Jeremy Boxen
Director: Rafal Sokolowski
Key cast: Brian J. Smith, Raoul Trujilla, Aaron Ashmore, Kaniehtiio Horn, John Kapelos

In *22 Chaser*, one of the city’s last decent tow-truck drivers risks everything on a desperate quest to become king of the road and provide for his struggling family.



Adam’s Testament

Production company: Reel Deal Guys Entertainment
Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON
Writers: Jason Barbeck, Rafael Kalamat
Directors: Jason Barbeck, Rafael Kalamat
Key cast: Philip Moran, Luke Bilyk, Zoé De Grand Maison, Frank Chiesurin, Nick Mancuso, Art Hindle

Adam, a young musician, had the perfect life, until one day everything changed. His father, detective Joseph Gable, continues on a relentless path to save Adam’s soul as angels and demons are disguised as humans. This ancient spiritual war between good and evil will test their faith as a dark stranger descends on modern-day Toronto.

An American Dream: The Education of William Bowman

Production company: Shaftesbury
Location of principal photography: Hamilton, ON
Writer: Ken Finkleman
Director: Ken Finkleman
Key cast: Jake Croker, Ted Whittall, Derek McGrath

A cheerfully gullible college graduate embarks on a journey into adulthood that whisks him into the insanity of 21st-century America, where he is beset by a parade of oversexed women, gun-crazed zealots, paranoid government agents, fundamentalist preachers and reality-TV hucksters.



Anatomy of Violence

Production company: Hamilton-Mehta Productions
Location of principal photography: India
Writer: Deepa Mehta
Director: Deepa Mehta
Key cast: Janki Bisht, Vansh Bhardwaj, Davinder Singh, Jagjeet Sandhu, Mukti Das, Suman Jha, Mahesh Saini, Tia Bhatia, Seema Biswas, Ramanjit Kaur, Debina Rakshit

In an impassioned and essential new film, celebrated filmmaker Deepa Mehta imagines what led up to one of India’s most notorious assaults against women – the 2012 fatal gang rape of a 23-year-old woman on a Delhi bus.



April and the Extraordinary World

Production companies: Kaibou Productions, Je Suis Bien Content (France), Need Productions (Belgium)
Writers: Franck Ekinci, Benjamin Legrand
Directors: Christian Desmares, Franck Ekinci
Key cast: Marion Cotillard, Philippe Katerine, Jean Rochefort

It’s 1941 in Paris, and a teenage girl and her talking cat go on a mission to find her missing parents.



Away from Everywhere

Production companies: Morag Loves Company, Quiet Revolution Pictures, Mad Mummer Media
Location of principal photography: St. John’s, NL
Writer: Mark Hoffe
Director: Justin Simms
Key cast: Jason Priestley, Joanne Kelly, Shawn Doyle

Based on the award-winning novel written by Chad Pelley, *Away from Everywhere* tells the story of two brothers brought together by mental illness and trauma.



Below Her Mouth

Production company: Serendipity Point Films
Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON
Writer: Stephanie Fabrizi
Director: April Mullen
Key cast: Natalie Krill, Erika Linder, Sebastian Pigott, Mayko Nguyen, Tommie-Amber Pirie, Melanie Leishman, Andrea Stefancikova

Below Her Mouth is a bold, uninhibited drama that begins with a passionate weekend affair between two women. Dallas, a roofer, and Jasmine, a fashion editor, share a powerful and immediate connection that inevitably derails both of their lives.



The Bequest

Production companies: Humanity Productions, Vitality Media Productions, Manitouwabi Films
Location of principal photography: Britt, ON
Writers: Jeff Kopas, Doug Taylor
Director: Jeff Kopas
Key cast: Shenae Grimes-Beech, Gil Bellows, Don Mckellar, Nathalie Brown, Rosemary Dunsmore, Kenneth Mitchell

Tortured by the memory of a childhood trauma, a woman returns after a decade to her family’s fly-in hunting lodge to assist her siblings with their dying father, only to find herself stuck in a life threatening nightmare, where she must struggle to survive.



The Blackcoat’s Daughter

Production companies: Zed Filmworks, Paris Film (US), Traveling Picture Show Company (US), Unbroken Pictures (US)
Location of principal photography: Ottawa, ON
Writer: Stephen Dunn
Director: Oz Perkins
Key cast: Emma Roberts, Kiernan Shipka, Lauren Holly

Two girls at an all-girls boarding school bond over a series of sinister events.



The Bleeding Edge

Production company: Flying Cloud Productions
Location of principal photography: Vancouver, BC
Writers: Leon Lee, Drew Parker
Director: Leon Lee
Key cast: Anastasia Lin, James Yi, Jay Clift, Tony Bai

During the onset of internet censorship and surveillance in communist China, a high-profile web project was developed by Western tech companies to monitor the activities of Chinese citizens. When a young mother is imprisoned in a labour camp for her beliefs, the tragedy that befalls her reveals the project had a more sinister motive.



Bon Cop, Bad Cop 2

Production companies: Item 7, Jessie Films
Location of principal photography: Montreal, QC
Writer: Patrick Huard
Director: Alain Desrochers
Key cast: Colm Feore, Patrick Huard

Six years after David Bouchard and Martin Ward met for the first time on the border between Ontario and Quebec, the two team up again when a car theft leads to a crime much bigger than they expected.



Borealis

Production companies: Banana-Moon Sky Films, Buffalo Gal Pictures, Vigilante Productions
Location of principal photography: Manitoba
Writer: Jonas Chernick
Director: Sean Garrity
Key cast: Joey King, Jonas Chernick

An unemployed gambler takes her daughter on a trip to see the northern lights before a vision disorder destroys her eyesight.



Boris Without Béatrice

Production company: Metafilms
Location of principal photography: Cowansville and Montreal, QC
Writer: Denis Côté
Director: Denis Côté
Key cast: James Hyndman, Simone-Élise Girard, Denis Lavant

To ensure his wife’s return to health, a proud and successful man must finally confront himself and reconsider everything he thought he knew.



Born to Be Blue

Production companies: New Real Films, Lumanity Productions, Black Hangar Studios (UK)
Location of principal photography: Sudbury, ON
Writer: Robert Budreau
Director: Robert Budreau
Key cast: Ethan Hawke, Carmen Ejogo, Callum Keith Rennie

A reimagining of jazz legend Chet Baker’s musical comeback in the late ’60s.



Bottom of the World

Production companies: Zed Filmworks, Catalyst Global Media (UK)
Location of principal photography: Ottawa, ON
Writers: Brian Gottlieb, David Kowalski
Director: Richard Sears
Key cast: Jena Malone, Ted Levine, Douglas Smith

After a young woman mysteriously disappears, her boyfriend embarks on a journey to find her, and gets caught up in a dark mystery that blurs the boundaries between reality and fantasy.



Chasing Valentine

Production companies: Splice Flims, High Star Entertainment
Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON
Writers: Neal Avram Schneider, Navin Ramaswaran
Director: Navin Ramaswaran
Key cast: Adam Langton, Gwen Cumyn

Chasing Valentine is a charming drama about an out-of-work writer who gets inspired by an unconventional call girl. It has premiered at festivals worldwide – including Milan, Orlando, Poland and Toronto – and received over seven wins, including best actor and supporting actor.

The Child Remains

Production company: Malefic Films
Location of principal photography: Halifax, NS
Writer: Michael Melski
Director: Michael Melski
Key cast: Allan Hawco, Suzanne Clément, Shelley Thompson

A married couple’s dream trip to a remote country home becomes a nightmare when they discover that the pretty inn is actually a haunted maternity home where infants and mothers were murdered for money.



Closet Monster

Production companies: Rhombus Media, Best Boy Productions
Location of principal photography: St. John’s, NL
Writer: Stephen Dunn
Director: Stephen Dunn
Key cast: Connor Jessup, Aaron Abrams, Isabella Rossellini

Sick and suffering from memories of trauma, an artistic teenager retreats into fantasy in order to cope with his sense of isolation and sexual confusion.

Colossal

Production companies: Brightlight Pictures, Sayaka Producciones Audiovisuales (Spain)
Location of principal photography: Vancouver, BC
Writer: Nacho Vigalondo
Director: Nacho Vigalondo
Key cast: Dan Stevens, Anne Hathaway, Jason Sudeikis

In this action-packed thriller, a young woman comes to learn that catastrophic events are responsible for her mental breakdown.

Considering Love and Other Magic

Production company: Buffalo Gal Pictures
Location of principal photography: Winnipeg, MB
Writer: Dave Schultz
Director: Dave Schultz
Key cast: Eric McCormack, Rory J. Saper, Sheila McCarthy

A confused teenage girl tries to befriend an odd man who claims that he hasn’t left his house in over 60 years.



Deadly Dance Mom

Production company: Certified Organic Entertainment Inc.
Location of principal photography: Woodbridge, ON
Writer: Susan Rodgers
Director: Paul Lynch
Key cast: Christina Cox, Beverley Mitchell

Jeanette, a competitive dance mom, will go to any length to see her daughter win the big upcoming competition. When a competing young protege steals the show and is certain to take top honours, Jeanette spins a dangerous web, including kidnapping, to make sure the little competitor never makes it to the big competition.

The Death and Life of John F. Donovan

Production companies: Lyla Films, Sons of Manual
Writers: Xavier Dolan, Jacob Tierney
Director: Xavier Dolan
Key cast: Kit Harington, Sarah Gadon, Jessica Chastain, Kathy Bates, Susan Sarandon

The life and career of a well-known film star is threatened after his correspondences with a young underage actor are exposed.

Devil’s Gate

Production companies: Caramel Film, Mednick Productions
Location of principal photography: Winnipeg, MB
Writers: Peter Aperlo, Clay Staub
Director: Clay Staub
Key cast: Milo Ventimiglia, Amanda Schull, Bridget Regan

After a local woman and her son disappear from the small town of Devil’s Gate, North Dakota, an FBI agent and the local sheriff go searching for them and soon discover that nothing is as it seems.



The Devout

Production companies: Verhagen Entertainment, Hoggwild Films, Clownbog Studios
Location of principal photography: Victoria, BC
Writer: Connor Gaston
Director: Connor Gaston
Key cast: Charlie Carrick, Ali Liebert, Gabrielle Rose, Olivia Martin

A father is forced to question his faith when he begins to believe that his terminally ill four-year-old daughter was an astronaut in a past life.

Don’t Talk to Irene

Production companies: Alyson Richards Productions, Lithium Studios Productions
Writer: Pat Mills
Director: Pat Mills
Key cast: Geena Davis

Fat and friendless, Irene is forced into community service at the Golden Days retirement home after being suspended from school. With a passion for cheerleading, Irene secretly signs up the senior residents to audition for a dance-themed reality show to prove that you don’t need to be physically perfect to be awesome.

Drone

Production companies: Look to the Sky Films, Gold Star Productions
Location of principal photography: Vancouver, BC
Writers: Ian Birkett, Paul A. Birkett, Jason Bourque, Roger Patterson
Director: Jason Bourque
Key cast: Sean Bean, Mary McCormack, Joel David Moore

After a military drone contractor meets a Pakistani businessman, a fatal argument over ideological differences ensues.

Edge of Winter

Production companies: Independent Edge Films, JoBro Productions & Film Finance
Location of principal photography: Sudbury, ON
Writers: Rob Connolly, Kyle Mann
Director: Rob Connolly
Key cast: Tom Holland, Joel Kinnaman, Rachelle Lefevre

When two brothers are stranded by a brutal winter storm with an unpredictable father they barely know, the boys begin to suspect their supposed protector may be their biggest threat.

Eye on Juliet

Production company: Item 7
Location of principal photography: Montreal, QC
Writer: Kim Nguyen
Director: Kim Nguyen
Key cast: Joe Cole, Lina El Arabi

A young woman catches the eye of a drone pilot while on a remote mission in the Middle East. He soon falls in love with her.

Goon: Last of the Enforcers

Production companies: No Trace Camping, Caramel Films
Location of principal photography: Toronto and Barrie, ON
Writers: Jay Baruchel, Jesse Chabot
Director: Jay Baruchel
Key cast: Seann William Scott, Liev Schreiber, Elisha Cuthbert, Alison Pill

In this sequel to the 2011 hit, “The Thug” (Seann William Scott) and his hockey team, the Halifax Highlanders, join forces with new players during a pro lockout.



Gridlocked

Production companies: High Star Entertainment, North Hollywood Films
Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON
Writers: Allan Ungar, Rob Robol
Director: Allan Ungar
Key cast: Dominic Purcell, Danny Glover, Stephen Lang, Vinnie Jones, Trish Stratus, Saul Rubinek

After a squad of mercenaries attack a police training facility, a hard-partying movie star and former SWAT leader must cut their ride-along short in order to survive.

Gutshot

Production companies: Zed Filmworks, Go Insane Films, UNIT XIX
Location of principal photography: Ottawa, ON
Writers: Adrian Langley, Daniel Weissenberger
Director: Adrian Langley
Key cast: Lee Beaudin, Leah Gibson, Scott Gibson

A former soldier goes head to head with a feared crime boss in this bloody action film.



Happily Ever After

Production companies: Paragraph Pictures, Premiere Picture (UK), Green Screen Productions Ltd. (UK)

Location of principal photography: Sault Ste. Marie, ON

Writers: Joan Carr-Wiggin and Savitri Gordian

Director: Joan Carr-Wiggin

Key cast: Janet Montgomery, Sara Paxton, Alex Kingston, Peter Firth, Tom Cullen

A young anarchist filmmaker turns her camera on her former best friend’s wedding in this comedy-drama about family and secrets – and best friends forever.



The Healer

Production companies: Topsail Entertainment, ESP-62 Producciones (Spain)

Location of principal photography: Halifax, NS

Writer: Paco Arango

Director: Paco Arango

Key cast: Jonathan Pryce, Camilla Luddington, Jorge Garcia

A man discovers that he has a gift for healing, and a boy with cancer shows up in his life, seeking help.



Hellmington

Production companies: The Coup Company, Vortex Words + Pictures, Blind Luck Pictures

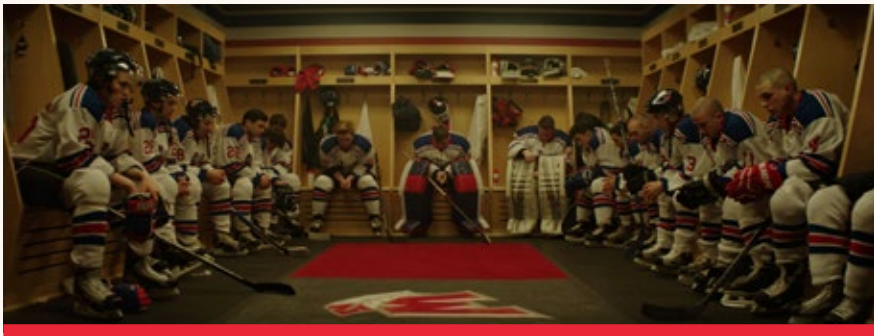
Location of principal photography: North Bay, ON

Writers: Alex Lee Williams, Jay Drakulic

Directors: Alex Lee Williams, Jay Drakulic

Key cast: Nicola Correia-Damude, Michael Ironside, Gabriel Grey, Munro Chambers

A detective returns to her home town due to the unexpected death of her father. Motivated by his dying words to find a former schoolmate, she uncovers evidence linking the girl’s disappearance to a series of grisly tragedies.



Hello Destroyer

Production companies: Tabula Dada, Type One

Location of principal photography: Prince George and Vancouver, BC

Writer: Kevan Funk

Director: Kevan Funk

Key cast: Jared Abrahamson, Kurt Max Runte, Joe Dion Buffalo, Paul McGillion, Ian Tracey, Ben Cotton, Sara Canning, Maxwell Haynes, R.J. Fetherstonhaugh, Darren Mann, Shane Leydon, Phil Prajoux

Jared Abrahamson (*Fear the Walking Dead*) plays a painfully shy but ruggedly capable enforcer on a minor-league hockey team, who discovers the cutthroat nature of his locker-room “family” in the forceful first feature from Canadian director Kevan Funk.



Hevn (Revenge)

Production companies: Alcina Pictures, Vigilante Films, Den Siste Skilling (Norway)

Location of principal photography: Fjærland, Norway

Writer: Kjersti Steinsbø, based on the novel *Dukken I Taket* by Ingvar Ambjørnsen

Director: Kjersti Steinsbø

Key cast: Siren Jørgensen, Frode Winther, Anders Baasmo Christiansen, Helene Bergsholm, Trond Espen Seim

In this Canadian-Norwegian revenge thriller – the first Canadian-Norwegian co-production in over 20 years – a young woman disguised as a travel writer shows up at a remote hotel by a fjord, where she tries to insinuate herself into the life of a successful couple in order to enact revenge for her sister’s death.



How to Plan an Orgy in a Small Town

Production company: Neophyte Productions

Location of principal photography: Unionville, ON

Writer: Jeremy LaLonde

Director: Jeremy LaLonde

Key cast: Jewel Staite, Ennis Esmer, Lauren Lee Smith

When a famous sex columnist returns to the small town that ostracized her, she’s surprised to find herself being courted by a group of locals desperate for her to help them plan an orgy.



I Am the Pretty Thing That Lives in the House

Production companies: Zed Filmworks, Go Insane Films, Paris Film (US)

Location of principal photography: Ottawa, ON

Writer: Osgood Perkins

Director: Osgood Perkins

Key cast: Ruth Wilson, Lucy Boynton, Debbie Harry, Bob Balaban

I Am the Pretty Thing That Lives in the House follows Lily (Wilson), a young nurse hired to care for elderly Helen Bloom, a bestselling author of ghost stories who has chosen to live out her final days in her beloved country home – a home that holds a horrific ghost story of its own.



Into the Forest

Production companies: Rhombus Media, Bron Studios

Location of principal photography: Campbell River, BC

Writer: Patricia Rozema

Director: Patricia Rozema

Key cast: Ellen Page, Evan Rachel Wood, Max Minghella

Based on the science-fiction book of the same name by Jean Hegland, *Into the Forest* is set in the not-too-distant future, where two young women try to survive in a small town that’s been hit by a massive power outage in a world on the verge of an apocalypse.

It’s Only the End of the World

Production companies: Sons of Manual, MK2 Productions (France)

Location of principal photography: Montreal, QC

Writer: Xavier Dolan

Director: Xavier Dolan

Key cast: Nathalie Baye, Vincent Cassel, Marion Cotillard

Based on the play *Juste la fin du monde* by Jean-Luc Lagarce, *It’s Only the End of the World* tells the story of a terminally ill writer, who after 12 years returns to his home and family to share the news of his impending death.



Jean of the Joneses

Production companies: Circle Blue Films, Pokeprod GPA Films (US)

Location of principal photography: Brooklyn, NY and Toronto, ON

Writer: Stella Meghie

Director: Stella Meghie

Key cast: Taylour Paige, Sherri Shepherd, Gloria Reuben, Michelle Hurst

Jean Jones, a 25-year-old Jamaican-American woman who’s been deemed New York’s next Zadie Smith, spirals out of control after conflicts with friends and family become too overwhelming to ignore and a figure from the past arrives dead at her doorstep.



Juggernaut

Production company: Mad Samurai Productions

Location of principal photography: Kamloops, BC

Writer: Daniel DiMarco

Director: Daniel DiMarco

Key cast: Jack Kesy, Amanda Crew, Peter McRobbie, David Cubitt, Stephen McHattie

After a lengthy absence, a small-town outlaw returns to his hometown, violently obsessed with the notion that his mother’s death was not a suicide.



Khoya

Production companies: Quarterlife Crisis Productions, Vigilante Productions

Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON and Mumbai, India

Writer: Sami Khan

Director: Sami Khan

Key cast: Rupak Ginn, Stephen McHattie

After the death of his adopted mother, a Canadian man travels to rural India, desperately searching for the birth family he’s never known and seeking to unravel the mystery surrounding his adoption.



Kiss and Cry

Production companies: Mythic Productions Inc

Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON

Writer: Willem Wennekers

Director: Sean Cisterna

Key cast: Sarah Fisher, Luke Bilyk, Chantal Kreviazuk, Naomi Sneickus

A romantic drama based on the story of Carley Allison, a promising 18-year-old figure skater and singer, who made medical history in her fight against a rare (one in 3.5 billion) type of sarcoma.



Lavender

Production companies: South Creek Pictures, 3 Legged Dog Films

Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON

Writers: Colin Frizzell, Ed Gass-Donnelly

Director: Ed Gass-Donnelly

Key cast: Abbie Cornish, Dermot Mulroney, Justin Long, Diego Klattenhoff

After losing her memory in a traumatic car crash, a photographer discovers that she may have been responsible for the death of family she never knew she had.

Lovesick

Production company: Eagle Vision

Location of principal photography: Winnipeg, MB

Writer: Tyson Caron

Director: Tyson Caron

Key cast: Jay Baruchel, Jessica Paré, Jacob Tierney, Ali Tataryn, Rebecca Gibson

Dash is a mess. He’s 33, broke, depressed and still in love with his ex Lauren. Dash’s world explodes when suddenly Lauren gets engaged. Everything seems hopeless until he meets Nora, a spontaneous and unforgettable woman. But timing is everything, and Nora’s not going to wait around.



Maliglutit (Searchers)

Production company: Kingulliit Productions Inc.

Location of principal photography: Igloolik, NU

Writers: Norman Cohn, Zacharias Kunuk

Directors: Zacharias Kunuk, Natar Ungalaaq (co-director)

Key cast: Benjamin Kunuk, Jocelyne Immaroitok, Karen Ivalu

Nunavut, circa 1913. Kuanana returns from a caribou hunt to discover his wife and daughter kidnapped, and the rest of his family slaughtered. His father’s spirit helper, the loon Kallulik, sets him on course to overturn fate and reunite his family.



Maudie

Production companies: Rink Rat Productions, H Is 4 Productions, Solo Productions, Parallel Film Productions (Ireland), Landscape Entertainment (US), Storyscape Entertainment (US)

Writer: Sherry White
Director: Aisling Walsh
Key cast: Ethan Hawke, Sally Hawkins

Maudie is an unlikely love story in which a curmudgeonly miser hires a frail young woman with severe arthritis to be his housekeeper and ends up managing her artistic career as a she becomes a well-loved folk artist. Inspired by the life story of Nova Scotia folk artist Maud Lewis.



Mean Dreams

Production companies: Woods Entertainment, Euclid 431 Pictures, Vigilante Productions, Project AMB, Sugar Shack Productions, Tip-Top Productions (US)
Location of principal photography: Sault Ste. Marie, ON
Writers: Kevin Coughlin, Ryan Grassby
Director: Nathan Morlando
Key cast: Sophie Nélisse, Josh Wiggins, Bill Paxton

A coming-of-age thriller starring two young teens who steal a large sum of money from two corrupt cops, flee their home and fall in love along their suspenseful journey.

Milton's Secret

Production companies: Buck Productions, Riverside Entertainment, Hulo Films
Location of principal photography: Vancouver, BC and Hamilton, ON
Writers: Barnet Bain, Sara B. Cooper and Donald Martin, based on the book by Eckhart Tolle and Robert Friedman
Director: Barnet Bain
Key cast: Donald Sutherland, Michelle Rodriguez, William Ainscough, Mia Kirshner, David Sutcliffe

Milton is a 12-year-old boy growing up in an economically and socially unpredictable world. His mother and father are workaholics with marital and financial problems, and he is bullied at school. When his grandfather visits, Milton learns rehashing the past and worrying about the future are preventing him from finding true happiness.

Mobile Homes

Production companies: Lithium Studios Productions, Madeleine Films, Incognito Films
Location of principal photography: Niagara Falls, ON
Writer: Vladimir de Fontenay
Director: Vladimir de Fontenay
Key cast: Imogen Poots, Callum Turner, Callum Keith Rennie

A young woman drifts from one motel to the next with her dangerously intoxicating boyfriend and her eight-year-old son. After a crisis rips their lives apart, she lands in a mobile-home community, where the promise of a new beginning for her son forces her to re-examine the very meaning of motherhood.



My Internship in Canada

Production company: micro_scope
Location of principal photography: Val d'Or, QC, Ottawa, ON and Port-au-Prince, Haiti
Writer: Philippe Falardeau
Director: Philippe Falardeau
Key cast: Patrick Huard, Irdens Exantus, Suzanne Clément, Paul Doucet

In this political satire, an independent Member of Parliament from northern Quebec finds himself, quite unexpectedly, in the position of holding the tie-breaking vote on whether Canada will go to war in the Middle East.



Natasha

Production company: Vortex Words + Pictures
Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON
Writer: David Bezmozgis
Director: David Bezmozgis
Key cast: Alex Ozerov, Sasha K. Gordon, Deanna Dez mari, Genadijs Dolganovs

A 14-year-old girl from Moscow engages in a forbidden romance with her 16-year-old Russian-Jewish cousin-by-marriage in Toronto.



Nelly

Production company: Go Films
Location of principal photography: Montreal, QC
Writer: Anne Émond
Director: Anne Émond
Key cast: Mylène Mackay, Mylia Corbeil-Gavreau, Mickaël Gouin, Francis Leplay

A film inspired by the life and works of Nelly Arcan. The portrait of a fragmented woman, lost between irreconcilable identities: writer, lover, call girl and star. Several women in one, navigating between great exaltation and great disenchantment. A film mirror of a violent life and a radical work. A tribute to dense writing, chilling and necessary.



Never Steady, Never Still

Production companies: Experimental Forest Films, Christie Street Creative
Location of principal photography: Fort St. James, BC
Writer: Kathleen Hepburn
Director: Kathleen Hepburn
Key cast: Shirley Henderson, Theodore Pellerin, Mary Galloway, Nicholas Campbell

A mother struggles to take control of her life in the face of advanced Parkinson's disease, while her son battles his sexual and emotional identity amid the violence of Alberta's oil-field work camps.

The Night Pond

Production company: GREEN Productions
Location of principal photography: Calgary, AB
Writer: Shaun Crawford
Director: John Kissack
Key cast: Siobhan Williams, Will Sasso, Jake Church

Grieving over the loss of his best friend who died on Christmas Eve, a 16-year-old boy wanders onto the pond where they used to play pickup hockey and discovers a secret rink where magical things can happen.

The Ninth Passenger

Production company: 308 Ent
Location of principal photography: Winnipeg, MB
Writers: Steve M. Albert, Richard Janes, Chad Krowchuk, Corey Large
Director: Matthew Atkinson
Key cast: Kyle Bornais, Justin Rebelo, Robert Scarborough

Mitch, a recluse, stupidly squanders away the fortune he made from a lottery and is forced to rent out a room in his house to a stranger in order to stay financially afloat.



Numb

Production company: Jenkinson/Goode Productions
Location of principal photography: Vernon, BC
Writer: Andre Harden
Director: Jason R. Goode
Key cast: Jamie Bamber, Marie Avgeropoulos, Aleks Paunovic, Stefanie von Pfetten

A couple steeped in financial woes embarks on a desperate quest to find gold in the remote winter wilderness.



Once There Was a Winter

Production company: Violator Films Inc
Location of principal photography: Dawson Creek, BC
Writer: Ana Valine
Director: Ana Valine
Key cast: Kate Corbett, Juan Riedinger, Teach Grant, Kris Demeanor

Set in a deceptively beautiful snowy landscape, a young, adventurous student finds herself in over her head in a secluded double-wide trailer. It’s trial by fire as she negotiates her safety with three men, when mating rituals and power struggles fuelled by guns, liquor and a secret threaten them all.

Operation Insanity

Production companies: CCI Entertainment, Grandpa Productions Ltd.
Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON
Writer: Jeff Schechter
Director: Erik Canuel
Key cast: Dylan Everett, James Caan, Jessica Walter, Paul Sorvino

A shy teenage boy finally scores a date with his crush, only to learn that she’s been kidnapped. Jake teams up with his crush’s grandpa, in the hopes of taking her back.



The Other Half

Production companies: Motel Pictures, JoBro Productions & Film Finance, Prodigy Pictures
Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON
Writer: Joey Klein
Director: Joey Klein
Key cast: Tatiana Maslany, Tom Cullen, Henry Czerny, Suzanne Clément

A woman diagnosed with bipolar disorder and a man suffering from grief try to live a simple life together.

Our Loved Ones

Production company: Metafilms
Location of principal photography: Notre-Dame-du-Portage, Rivière-du-Loup and Montreal, QC, Barcelona and Spain
Writer: Anne Émond
Director: Anne Émond
Key cast: Maxim Gaudette, Karelle Tremblay, Valérie Cadieux, Mickael Gouin

In 1978, Guy is found dead in his home’s basement in a small Quebec village. The real cause of death remains a mystery for most of his family. Years later, his son David, now a loving father of two children, secretly still carries the weight of this tragedy, as must David’s daughter, Laurence, with her own reaction to her father’s suffering.



Pays

Production companies: Item 7, La Boîte à Fanny, Morag Loves Company
Location of principal photography: Montreal, QC
Writer: Chloé Robichaud
Director: Chloé Robichaud
Key cast: Macha Grenon, Emily VanCamp, Nathalie Doummar, Rémy Girard, Alexandre Landry, Serge Houde, Yves Jacques, Sophie Faucher, Micheline Lanctôt

The path of three women cross in Besco, a small isolated island facing an important economic crisis. Félix, an idealistic Canadian, elected as a federal deputy at only 25 years old; Danielle, a strong and confident woman in her mid-forties, president of Besco; and Emily, a talented American mediator in her thirties leading negotiations between both countries. Dealing with the political conflict over the exploitation of Besco’s natural resources will bring these women to question how they wish to balance work with their personal lives. Under pressure, will they remain faithful to themselves and their values?



People Hold On

Production company: BrancSeater Productions
Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON
Writer: Paula Brancati, Michael Seater
Director: Michael Seater
Key cast: Katie Boland, Paula Brancati, Chloe Rose, Noah Reid, Ashley Leggat, Mazin Elsadig, Jonathan Malen, Al Mukadam

When a group of friends in their twenties regroup at a cottage before a wedding, old tensions arise.



Prisoner X

Production companies: Federgreen Entertainment, Sir Harry Films
Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON
Writers: Gaurav Seth, Robert Reed
Director: Gaurav Seth
Key cast: Michelle Nolden, Romano Orzari, Julian Richings, Damon Runyan

As the world rages in war and civil strife, a CIA agent arrives at a secret underground prison to interrogate a time-travelling terrorist who is responsible for the unfolding catastrophe.



The Rainbow Kid

Production company: Made By Other People
Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON
Writer: Kire Paputts
Director: Kire Paputts
Key cast: Dylan Harman, Krystal Nausbaum, Nicholas Campbell, Julian Richings

A young man with Down syndrome goes on an adventure to find a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow.



The Saver

Production company: Prospector Films

Location of principal photography: Montreal, QC

Writer: Wiebke von Carolsfeld

Director: Wiebke von Carolsfeld

Key cast: Imajyn Cardinal, Pascale Bussi res, Brandon Oakes, Hamidou Savadogo, Alexandre Landry

After her mother’s sudden death, 16-year-old Fern sets out to fight for life on her own terms – only to learn that she needs community more than money to survive.



Sleeping Giant

Production companies: Film Forge Productions, Hawkeye Pictures

Location of principal photography: Thunder Bay, ON

Writers: Andrew Cividino, Blain Watters, Aaron Yeger

Director: Andrew Cividino

Key cast: Jackson Martin, Reece Moffett, Nick Serino

Winner of the Best Canadian First Feature Film award at Toronto International Film Festival and the Best Canadian Film award at Vancouver International Film Festival last year, *Sleeping Giant* tells the story of three teenage boys whose fates collide during summer vacation on the north shore of Lake Superior.

Snowtime!

Production company: CarpeDiem Film & TV

Writers: Normand Canac-Marquis, Paul Risacher

Directors: Jean-Fran ois Pouliot, Fran ois Brisson

Key cast: Sandra Oh, Ross Lynch, Lucinda Davis, Angela Galuppo

An animated retelling of the 1984 film *The Dog Who Stopped the War* (*La Guerre des tuques*), *Snowtime!* is about a group of children in a small village who plan a massive snowball fight during the winter school break.

Song of Granite

Production companies: Am rique Film, Roads Entertainment (Ireland)

Location of principal photography: County Galway, Ireland and Montreal, QC

Writers: Pat Collins, Eoghan Mac Giolla Bhride, Sharon Whooley

Director: Pat Collins

Key cast: Macdara   F tharta, Michael O’Chonfhlaola, Colm Seoghe

A biopic on the life of Joe Heaney (Sesame   h  ana ), an influential Irish traditional singer who recorded hundreds of Sean-N s songs (unaccompanied with a highly ornamented melodic line) over the course of his long career. He spent most of his adult life abroad, living in England, Scotland and New York City.



The Space Between

Production company: JA Productions

Location of principal photography: Guelph, ON

Writer: Amy Jo Johnson

Director: Amy Jo Johnson

Key cast: Michael Cram, Sonya Salomaa, Michael Ironside, Kristian Bruun, Jane Eastwood, Julia Sarah Stone

Amy Jo Johnson marks her directorial debut with a comedy about a father who discovers that his child is not actually his own, and sets out on a quest to find answers.

Spark

Production companies: ToonBox Entertainment, Redrover (South Korea), Hoongman (China), Gulfstream Pictures (US)

Writers: Doug Hadders, Adam Rotstein, Aaron Woodley

Director: Aaron Woodley

Key cast: Jace Norman, Jessica Biel, Hilary Swank, Susan Sarandon, Patrick Stewart

Thirteen years ago, the power-mad General Zhong seized control of Planet Bana, tearing it to pieces in the process. Enter Spark and his friends, Chunk and Vix, who learn of Zhong’s plan to take over the universe. If Zhong is able to harness the power of an ancient beast known as the Kraken, he’ll have history’s deadliest weapon at his fingertips. And it’s up to Spark and his friends to stop him. An action-packed space odyssey filled with humour and heart, *Spark* is the story of a boy who embarks on an epic adventure, and in the process discovers his rightful place in the universe.



Stegman Is Dead

Production company: Julijette

Location of principal photography: Winnipeg, MB

Writers: David Hyde, Stephen Kunc

Director: David Hyde

Key cast: Michael Eklund, Bernice Liu, Linnea Moffat

A big-time thief must battle against hitmen and police to save his family and free himself from a double blackmail scheme.



Sundowners

Production companies: January Films, Carousel Pictures, Daylight On Mars Pictures

Location of principal photography: Santa Marta, Colombia and Toronto, ON

Writer: Pavan Moondi

Director: Pavan Moondi

Key cast: Phil Hanley, Luke Lalonde, Tim Heidecker

Desperate for a memorable experience in their mundane lives, Alex Hopper and Justin Brown are sent to sunny Mexico by Alex’s boss Tom to film a destination wedding. They don’t really know what they’re doing, and the drinks are free. This could get messy.



The Steps

Production company: Quadrant Motion Pictures

Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON

Writer: Robyn Harding

Director: Andrew Currie

Key cast: Emmanuelle Chriqui, James Brolin, Jason Ritter, Christine Lahti

An uptight New Yorker and his party-girl sister visit their Dad’s lake house to meet his new cocktail-waitress wife and her rough-around-the-edges kids. When the parents announce they’re adopting a new stepchild to bring the family together, it has the opposite effect.



Those Who Make Revolution Halfway Only Dig Their Own Graves

Production company: Art & Essai

Location of principal photography: Montreal, QC

Writers: Mathieu Denis, Simon Lavoie

Directors: Mathieu Denis, Simon Lavoie

Key cast: Charlotte Aubin, Joseph Bellerose, Gabrielle Tremblay, Emmanuelle Lussier Martinez

Klas Batalo, Giutizia, Tumulto and Ordine Nuovo, four twenty-somethings from Quebec, reject the world in which they live. Three years after the collapse of the “Maple Spring” protest movement, they resort to a form of vandalism that gradually leads them closer to terrorism. But their revolutionary avant-garde is far from society’s prevailing aspirations and threatens to blow up in their faces.



Two Lovers and a Bear

Production company: Max Films, co-produced with JoBro Productions and North Creative Films

Location of principal photography: Iqaluit, NU, Timmins and Ottawa, ON

Writer: Kim Nguyen

Director: Kim Nguyen

Key cast: Tatiana Maslany, Dane DeHaan, Gordon Pinsent

We are near the North Pole, in a town of 200 souls, where roads lead to nowhere. It is in this eerie lunar landscape that Roman and Lucy, two burning souls, will make a leap for life, a leap for inner peace.



Unless

Production companies: Sienna Films, Subotica Entertainment (Ireland)

Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON

Writers: Alan Gilsenan, Carol Shields

Director: Alan Gilsenan

Key cast: Catherine Keener, Matt Craven, Hannah Gross

Based on the novel by Carol Shields, *Unless* tells the story of a writer’s struggle to come to terms with his daughter’s decision to drop out of college and live on the streets.

Unwind

Production companies: Don Carmody Productions, Constantin Film (Germany)

Location of principal photography: Manitoba

Writers: Gala Avary, Roger Avary – adapting novel by Neal Shusterman

Director: Roger Avary

Key cast: Ian Nelson, Kiernan Shipka, Percy Hynes White

Three teens are forced to run for their lives in order to survive a dystopian future that’s eerily like our present.



Ville-Marie

Production company: Max Films Média Inc.

Location of principal photography: Montreal, QC

Writers: Guy Édoin, written in collaboration with Jean-Simon DesRochers

Director: Guy Édoin

Key cast: Monica Bellucci, Pascale Bussières, Aliocha Schneider, Patrick Hivon

An actress shooting a movie hopes to reconcile with her son. A paramedic haunted by his past tries to stay the course, while a caring nurse struggles to keep an emergency room running. It is at the Ville-Marie Hospital that these four lives will take an unexpected turn.

The Void

Production companies: Cave Painting Pictures, JoBro Productions & Film Finance

Location of principal photography: Sault Ste. Marie, ON

Writers: Jeremy Gillespie, Steven Kostanski

Directors: Jeremy Gillespie, Steven Kostanski

Key cast: Aaron Poole, Ellen Wong, Kathleen Munroe, Kenneth Welsh

A police officer and a crew of hospital staff join together to fight off a violent gang of mutating parasitic monsters, only to realize that the true terror awaits them inside the hospital.

The Waiting Room

Production companies: Gearshift Films, TimeLapse Pictures, YN Films

Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON

Writer: Igor Drljaca

Director: Igor Drljaca

Key cast: Jasmin Geljo, Filip Geljo, Masa Lizdek, Cynthia Ashperger, Ma-Anne Dionisio

A once-successful Yugoslavian, who now lives in Toronto with his son and second wife, tries to relaunch his dream of starring in a televised stage show that made him famous in his home country, before the civil war.



Weirdos

Production companies: Holdfast Pictures, Lithium Studios Productions, Shadow Shows

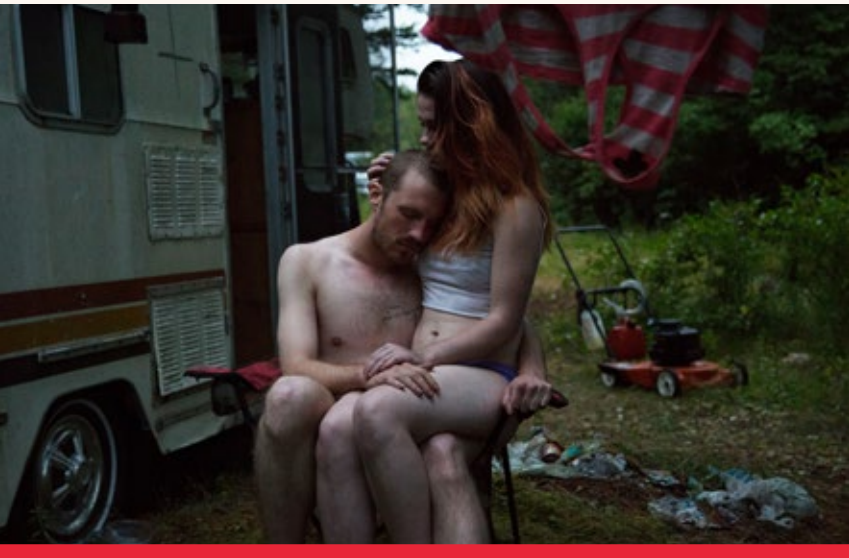
Location of principal photography: Sydney, NS

Writer: Daniel MacIvor

Director: Bruce McDonald

Key cast: Julia Sarah Stone, Dylan Authors, Molly Parker, Allan Hawco

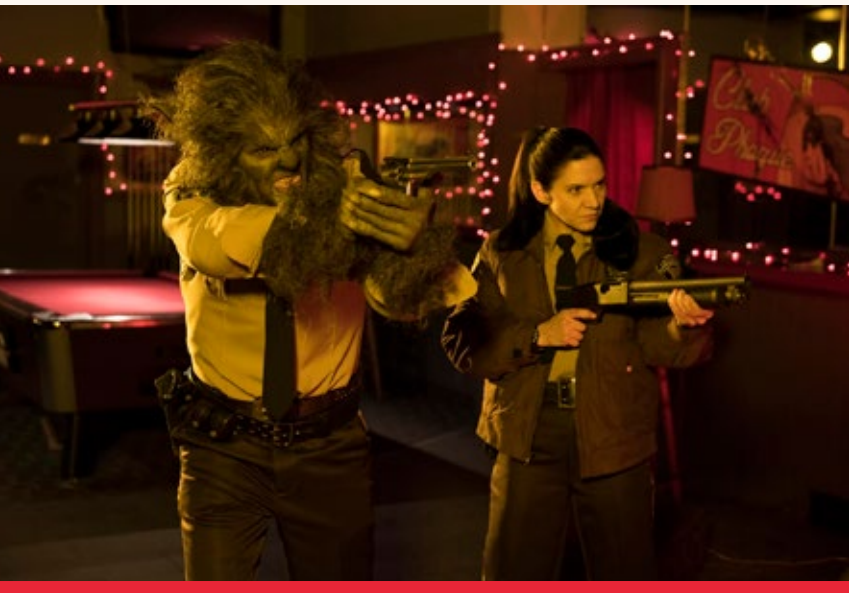
Nova Scotia. 1976. After an incident with his dad, 15-year-old Kit – accompanied by his girlfriend Alice – hits the highway, running away to live with his mother in an attempt to find a place to call home.



Werewolf

Production company: Grassfire Films
Location of principal photography: Sydney, NS
Writer: Ashley McKenzie
Director: Ashley McKenzie
Key cast: Andrew Gillis, Bhreagh MacNeil

The hardscrabble existence of two homeless, twentysomething drug addicts is portrayed with sensitivity and brutal honesty in the debut feature by Ashley McKenzie.



WolfCop 2

Production companies: The Coup Company, Vortex Words + Pictures
Location of principal photography: Sudbury, ON and Regina, SK
Writer: Lowell Dean
Director: Lowell Dean
Key cast: Leo Fafard, Amy Matysio, Jonathan Cherry, Yannick Bisson

A homicidal new villain has emerged, and it will take more than just a lone wolf packing a pistol to defeat him.



X Quinientos

Production companies: Périphéria, Septima Films Colombia (Colombia), Machette Producciones (Mexico)
Location of principal photography: Montreal, QC, Buenaventura, Colombia, Mexico City, Mexico and Manila, Philippines
Writer: Juan Andrés Arango
Director: Juan Andrés Arango
Key cast: Jemie Almazan, Jonathan Diaz Angulo, Bernardo Garnica Cruz

X Quinientos tells the story of three unrelated teenagers, living in different cities of the Americas, who are going through similar experiences of grief, migration and transformation.



Zoom

Production companies: Rhombus Media, O2 Filmes (Brazil)
Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON and São Paulo, Brazil
Writer: Matthew Hansen
Director: Pedro Morelli
Key cast: Gael Garcia Bernal, Jason Priestley, Alison Pill, Tyler Labine, Don McKellar

A multi-dimensional, experimental Canadian-Brazilian film, where a film director, a comic book artist and a novelist, each living in different realities, construct a story about one of the others.

Service Stereotypes and IP Ownership
A Q&A with Original Pictures’ Kim Todd

Kim Todd was integral in bringing the TV-adapted *Fargo* to the small screen – on time and on budget, no less – and earned an Emmy for her work. While those in service production might traditionally be known for their people management and coordination, Todd and her production company Original Pictures are working to change that attitude. She sits down with us to talk about why “service” isn’t a dirty word, and why owning IP is easier now that she’s picked up that trophy.



Production services have a stigma for being solely about talent management, but you have developed a reputation for providing deeper creative services – what’s the secret?

When I started Original Pictures, there was more opportunity for me and other independent producers in small companies to develop and produce drama for Canadian broadcasters than there is today.

Producing drama is what I love to do and my experience doing that is one of the things my company has to sell, so we stepped into the international world of production and offered that service. I am happy to use the skills I developed in Canada on great shows no matter where they originate.

On *Fargo*, my job is to understand the vision of creator Noah Hawley and to assure that we execute his scripts in the best way possible with the resources we have. It is one of the most creatively challenging and fulfilling experiences of my professional life and I believe most of the Canadian crew would say the same.

How do you make sure you’re set up for success in a market that’s in constant upheaval?

We’ve accepted that we’re building a service company, and we’ve taken the curse off the word “service” and tried to flip it on its head. We made the decision to build a foundation on our ability to produce shows that are owned by others, while at the same time still working to develop shows that we own.

What’s interesting is, because of my service experience, I can now get introductions to the literary agents, writers and creators working out of the US. This has helped me build relationships for future projects, where we have the opportunity for ownership over IP. It’s really a vision for the long term.

How has your career evolved since you picked up your Emmy?

In terms of furthering Original Pictures, it hasn’t changed the number of opportunities available to develop shows in the Canadian market.

But in America, it does make a difference, because many people don’t know me or the company. So when someone says, “By the way, she’s won an Emmy,” it does get people’s attention. It certainly helps distinguish me on the list of producers they might be considering. 🍀

Foreign Location • Service Production Film



Antibirth

Production companies: Hideaway Pictures, Timshel Pictures, Traverse Media
Location of principal photography: Sudbury, ON
Writer: Danny Perez
Director: Danny Perez
Key cast: Natasha Lyonne, Chloë Sevigny, Meg Tilly, Mark Webber, Emmanuel Kabongo

In a desolate community full of drug-addled Marines and rumours of kidnapping, a wild-eyed stoner named Lou wakes up after a wild night of partying with symptoms of a strange illness and recurring visions. She struggles to get a grip on reality while stories of conspiracy spread.

Arrival

Production companies: FilmNation Entertainment, 21 Laps Entertainment, Lava Bear Films
Location of principal photography: Montreal, QC
Writers: Eric Heisserer, Ted Chiang
Director: Denis Villeneuve
Key cast: Amy Adams, Jeremy Renner, Forest Whitaker, Michael Stuhlbarg

Taking place after alien crafts land around the world, an expert linguist is recruited by the military to determine whether they come in peace or are a threat.

The BFG

Production companies: Amblin Entertainment, Walt Disney Pictures, Walden Media, DreamWorks, Reliance Entertainment, Kennedy/Marshall Company
Location of principal photography: Vancouver, BC
Writers: Melissa Mathison, Roald Dahl
Director: Steven Spielberg
Key cast: Mark Rylance, Ruby Barnhill, Penelope Wilton

Based on the famous novel of the same name by Roald Dahl, *The BFG* tells the story of a young orphaned girl who befriends a big friendly giant.



The Birth of a Nation

Production companies: Bron Studios, Phantom Four, Mandalay Pictures, Tiny Giant Productions
Location of principal photography: Savannah, GA
Writers: Nate Parker, Jean McGianni Celestin
Director: Nate Parker, Jean McGianni Celestin
Key cast: Nate Parker, Armie Hammer, Mark Boone Jr., Colman Domingo, Aunjanue Ellis, Dwight Henry, Aja Naomi King, Esther Scott, Roger Guenveur Smith, Gabrielle Union, Penelope Ann Miller, Jackie Earle Haley

The Birth of a Nation follows Nat Turner, a literate slave and preacher, whose financially strained owner accepts an offer to use Nat’s preaching to subdue unruly slaves. As he witnesses countless atrocities – against himself and his fellow slaves – Nat orchestrates an uprising in the hopes of leading his people to freedom.



Birth of the Dragon

Production companies: Groundswell Productions, Kylin Pictures
Location of principal photography: Vancouver, BC, San Francisco, CA and China
Writers: Christopher Wilkinson, Stephen J. Rivele
Director: George Nolfi
Key cast: Philip Ng, Billy Magnussen, Xia Yu

A contemporary take on a classic kung fu film, *Birth of the Dragon* tells the story of the legendary fight in 1960s San Francisco between Bruce Lee and Shaolin master Wong Jack Man, as seen through the eyes of a young American martial-arts student. While details of the fight are still hotly disputed to this day, one thing is clear – out of that epic fight, Bruce Lee emerged as the Dragon, the man who would bring kung fu to the world.

Blade Runner Sequel

Production companies: Thunderbird Films, Alcon Entertainment, Scott Free Productions, Warner Bros.
Location of principal photography: Budapest, Hungary
Writers: Ridley Scott, Hampton Fancher, Michael Green, Philip K. Dick
Director: Denis Villeneuve
Key cast: Ryan Gosling, Harrison Ford, Mackenzie Davis, Robin Wright

Set in a dystopian LA in 2019, the film features genetically engineered robots called Replicants, created for dangerous, menial work in “off-world colonies.” They were banned from Earth after a vicious mutiny and are monitored by blade runners, specialist forces who hunt and “retire” Replicants if they return to Earth. Rick Deckard reluctantly accepts his assignment as a blade runner to hunt a particularly cunning group of escaped Replicants.



Brain on Fire

Production companies: Foundation Features, Denver and Delilah Productions, Broad Green Pictures
Location of principal photography: Vancouver, BC
Writers: Gerard Barrett, based on the book by Susannah Cahalan
Director: Gerard Barrett
Key cast: Chloë Grace Moretz, Thomas Mann, Jenny Slate, Richard Armitage, Tyler Perry, Carrie Anne Moss

Based on Susannah Cahalan’s memoir *Brain on Fire: My Month of Madness*, *Brain on Fire* is a disturbingly vivid look at a woman who descends rapidly into madness.

Braven

Production company: Pride of Gypsies
Location of principal photography: St. John’s, NL
Writers: Michael Nilon, Thomas Pa’a Sibbett
Director: Lin Oeding
Key cast: Jason Momoa, Garret Dillahunt, Stephen Lang

A logger defends his family from a group of dangerous drug runners.



Burn Your Maps

Production companies: Cinelou Films, Patrick Aiello Productions, Defender Films, Wheel Entertainment Films
Location of principal photography: Calgary and Kananaskis Country, AB
Writer: Jordan Roberts
Director: Jordan Roberts
Key cast: Vera Farmiga, Jacob Tremblay, Marton Csokas, Suraj Sharma, Virginia Madsen, Ramón Rodríguez

Based on the short story of the same name by Robyn Joy Leff, *Burn Your Maps* is an eccentric story about an eight-year-old American boy who comes to believe, in the aftermath of a family tragedy, that he’s a Mongolian goatherder who was born in the wrong place.

Come and Find Me

Production companies: Automatik Entertainment, Motion Picture Capital, Oddfellows Entertainment
Location of principal photography: Vancouver, BC
Writer: Zack Whedon
Director: Zack Whedon
Key cast: Annabelle Wallis, Aaron Paul, Garret Dillahunt

A man searches for his girlfriend after discovering that she’s not who he thought she was.

A Dog’s Purpose

Production companies: Amblin Entertainment, DreamWorks SKG, Pariah Entertainment Group
Location of principal photography: Winnipeg, MB
Writer: Cathryn Michon, W. Bruce Cameron
Director: Lasse Hallström
Key cast: Britt Robertson, Bradley Cooper, Dennis Quaid

A dog looks to discover his purpose in life over the course of several lifetimes and owners.



The Edge of Seventeen

Production companies: STX Entertainment, Huayi Brothers Pictures, Gracie Films
Location of principal photography: Vancouver, BC
Writer: Kelly Fremon Craig
Director: Kelly Fremon Craig
Key cast: Hailee Steinfeld, Woody Harrelson, Kyra Sedgwick, Haley Lu Richardson, Blake Jenner, Hayden Szeto

A high-school junior’s life, already at peak awkwardness, is sent into turmoil when her all-star older brother starts dating her best friend in this coming-of-age comedy.

Flatliners

Production companies: Columbia Pictures, Furthur Films, Laurence Mark Productions
Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON
Writer: Ben Ripley
Director: Niels Arden Oplev
Key cast: Ellen Page, Nina Dobrev, Kiersey Clemons, James Norton, Diego Luna

Medical students experiment on “near death” experiences that involve past tragedies until the dark consequences begin to jeopardize their lives.

The Glass Castle

Production companies: Lionsgate, Netter Productions
Location of principal photography: Montreal, QC
Writer: Destin Daniel Cretton, Andrew Lanham, based on the novel by Jeannette Walls
Director: Destin Daniel Cretton
Key cast: Brie Larson, Woody Harrelson, Naomi Watts, Max Greenfield

Based on the *New York Times* bestselling memoir, *The Glass Castle* follows the triumphant account of author Jeannette Walls’s unconventional upbringing, overcoming a difficult childhood with her dysfunctional family of nomads whose ideals and stubborn nonconformity were both their curse and their salvation.

The Headhunter’s Calling

Production companies: Zero Gravity Management, Scythia Films
Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON
Writer: Bill Dubuque
Director: Mark Williams
Key cast: Gerard Butler, Willem Dafoe, Anupam Kher, Alfred Molina, Alison Brie, Gretchen Mol

A headhunter, whose life revolves around closing deals in a survival-of-the-fittest boiler room, battles his top rival for control of their job placement company – his dream of owning the company clashing with the needs of his family.

It

Production companies: KatzSmith Productions, Lin Pictures, Vertigo Entertainment
Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON
Writers: Gary Dauberman, Chase Palmer, Stephen King
Director: Andrés Muschietti
Key cast: Bill Skarsgård, Javier Botet, Owen Teague, Jaeden Lieberher

In a small town in Maine, seven children known as the Losers’ Club come face to face with life problems, bullies and a monster that takes the shape of a clown called Pennywise.

The Journey Is the Destination

Production companies: Prospero Pictures, Out of Africa Entertainment, Alpas Entertainment, Creative Visions Productions
Location of principal photography: South Africa
Writer: Jan Sardi, Bronwen Hughes
Director: Bronwen Hughes
Key cast: Ben Schnetzer, Kelly Macdonald, Sam Hazeldine, Ella Purnell, Maria Bello

Director Bronwen Hughes (*Stander*) and screenwriter Jan Sardi (*Shine*) recreate the inspiring life story of the late photojournalist, artist and activist Dan Eldon, who abandoned a comfortable life in London to document the struggle, heartbreak and hope of a war-torn and famine-ridden region of Africa.

Little Pink House

Production companies: Brightlight Pictures, Korchula Productions
Location of principal photography: Vancouver, BC
Writer: Courtney Balaker
Director: Courtney Balaker
Key cast: Jeanne Tripplehorn, Catherine Keener, Callum Keith Rennie

A small-town nurse named Susette Kelo emerges as the reluctant leader of her working-class neighbours in their struggle to save their homes from political and corporate interests bent on seizing the land and handing it over to Pfizer.

Midnight Sun

Production companies: Boies / Schiller Film Group, Wrigley Pictures
Location of principal photography: Vancouver, BC
Writer: Eric Kirsten
Director: Scott Speer
Key cast: Bella Thorne, Patrick Schwarzenegger, Rob Riggle

Katie is a 17-year-old sheltered since childhood and confined to her house during the day by a rare disease that makes even the smallest amount of sunlight deadly. Fate intervenes when she meets Charlie and they embark on a summer romance.

Miss Sloane

Production companies: Archery Pictures, FilmNation Entertainment
Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON
Writer: Jonathan Perera
Director: John Madden
Key cast: Jessica Chastain, Gugu Mbatha-Raw, Mark Strong

An ambitious lobbyist faces off against the powerful gun lobby in an attempt to pass gun-control legislation.



My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2

Production companies: Gold Circle Films, HBO Films, Playtone
Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON
Writer: Nia Vardalos
Director: Kirk Jones
Key cast: Nia Vardalos, John Corbett, Lainie Kazan, Michael Constantine, Andrea Martin, Ian Gomez, Elena Kampouris

In this sequel to the hit movie *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, Toula Portokalos’s life is a mess, and the only thing keeping her hopeful is the restaurant started by her father, Gus, who’s come to believe he’s the descendant of Alexander the Great.



Nine Lives

Production companies: EuropaCorp, Fundamental Films
Location of principal photography: Montreal, QC
Writers: Matt Allen, Dan Antoniazzi, Gwyn Lurie, Ben Shiffrin, Caleb Wilson
Director: Barry Sonnenfeld
Key cast: Kevin Spacey, Jennifer Garner, Robbie Amell

A cold businessman is on a hunt to buy his daughter a present for her eleventh birthday when he’s transformed into a cat.

Okja

Production companies: Kate Street Picture Company, Plan B Entertainment, Lewis Pictures
Location of principal photography: Vancouver, BC
Writer: Joon-ho Bong, Jon Ronson
Director: Joon-ho Bong
Key cast: Jake Gyllenhaal, Lily Collins, Paul Dano, Tilda Swinton

A young girl named Mija risks everything to prevent a powerful multinational company from kidnapping her best friend – a massive animal named Okja.



Power Rangers

Production companies: Temple Hill Entertainment, Saban Brands, Toei Company
Location of principal photography: Vancouver, BC
Writers: Max Landis, John Gatins, Matt Sazama, Burk Sharpless, Ashley Miller, Zack Stentz
Director: Dean Israelite
Key cast: Dacre Montgomery, Becky G, RJ Cyler, Naomi Scott, Ludi Lin, Elizabeth Banks, Bryan Cranston

A group of high-school kids, who are infused with unique superpowers, harness their abilities in order to save the world.

Rupture

Production companies: Tango Pictures, AMBI Group
Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON
Writer: Brian Nelson, Steven Shainberg
Director: Steven Shainberg
Key cast: Noomi Rapace, Peter Stormare, Michael Chiklis

After a mysterious organization abducts a single mother, she tries to break free.

Shimmer Lake

Production company: Footprint Features
Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON
Writer: Oren Uziel
Director: Oren Uziel
Key cast: Benjamin Walker, Rainn Wilson, Wyatt Russell

Not your regular crime thriller: *Shimmer Lake* tells the story of a local sheriff’s attempt to solve a mystery backwards – back in time, day by day.



Shut In

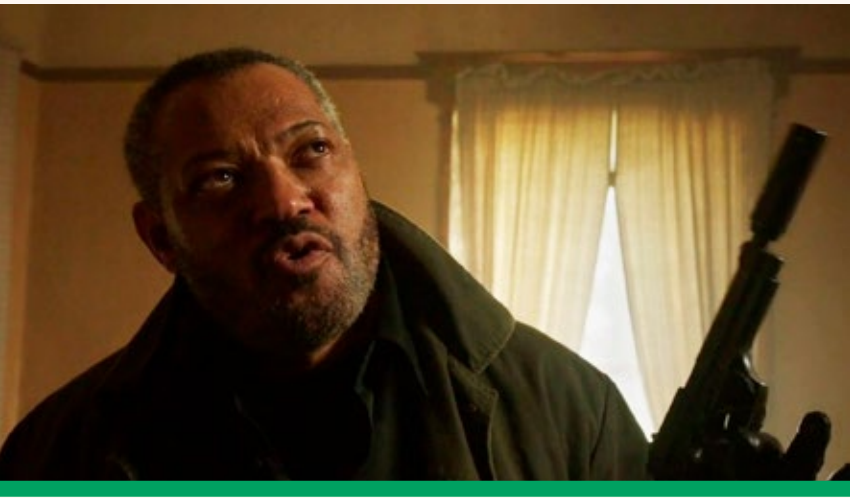
Production companies: EuropaCorp, Transfilm International Inc, in association with Lava Bear
Location of principal photography: Montreal, QC and Vancouver, BC
Writer: Christina Hodson
Director: Farren Blackburn
Key cast: Naomi Watts, Oliver Platt, Charlie Heaton, Jacob Tremblay, David Cubitt and Clementine Poidatz

Shut In is a heart-pounding thriller starring Naomi Watts as a widowed child psychologist who lives an isolated existence in rural New England. Caught in a deadly winter storm, she must find a way to rescue a young boy before he disappears forever.

The Solutrean

Production company: Studio 8
Location of principal photography: Vancouver, BC
Writer: Dan Wiedenhaupt
Director: Albert Hughes
Key cast: Kodi Smit-McPhee

An epic tale of survival, set in the last ice age 20,000 years ago.



Standoff

Production companies: Goldrush Entertainment, First Point Entertainment, Maple Leaf Films
Location of principal photography: Sault Ste. Marie, ON
Writer: Adam Alleca
Director: Adam Alleca
Key cast: Laurence Fishbourne, Thomas Jane

A down-and-out veteran tries to redeem himself by protecting a 12-year-old girl from an assassin.



Star Trek Beyond

Production companies: Skydance Media, Bad Robot Productions, Sneaky Shark, Perfect Storm Entertainment
Location of principal photography: Vancouver, BC
Writers: Simon Pegg, Doug Jung
Director: Justin Lin
Key cast: Chris Pine, Zachary Quinto, Zoe Saldana, Karl Urban

After being bombarded by a band of strange aliens, the crew of the USS Enterprise abandon ship and wind up stranded on a mysterious planet.



Suicide Squad

Production companies: Atlas Entertainment, DC Entertainment, Dune Entertainment, Lin Pictures, Warner Bros.

Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON

Writers: David Ayer, John Ostrander

Director: David Ayer

Key cast: Will Smith, Jared Leto, Margot Robbie, Joel Kinnaman, Viola Davis, Jai Courtney, Jay Hernandez, Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje, Ike Barinholtz, Scott Eastwood, Cara Delevingne

In *Suicide Squad*, which features a star-filled cast, Amanda Waller leads a secret government agency that recruits imprisoned supervillains to execute life-threatening black-ops missions. The reward? Saving the world from an unknown but very real threat.

Tomboy, a Revenger’s Tale

Production companies: SBS Productions, Solution Entertainment Group

Location of principal photography: Vancouver, BC

Writers: Denis Hamill, Walter Hill

Director: Walter Hill

Key cast: Sigourney Weaver, Michelle Rodriguez, Tony Shalhoub, Anthony LaPaglia

Follows an ace assassin who is double-crossed by gangsters and falls into the hands of rogue surgeon, known as The Doctor, who turns him into a woman. The hitman, now a hitwoman, sets out for revenge, aided by a nurse named Johnnie who also has secrets.



Una

Production companies: Bron Creative, Film4, Jean Doumanian Productions, WestEnd Films

Location of principal photography: England

Writer: David Harrower

Director: Benedict Andrews

Key cast: Rooney Mara, Ben Mendelsohn, Indira Varma, Riz Ahmed

When a young woman unexpectedly arrives at an older man’s workplace, looking for answers, the secrets of the past threaten to unravel his new life. Their confrontation will uncover buried memories and unspeakable desires. It will shake them both to the core.

A Very Sordid Wedding

Production companies: Beard Collins Shores Productions, Buffalo Gal Pictures

Location of principal photography: Winnipeg, MB

Writer: Del Shores

Director: Del Shores

Key cast: Whoopi Goldberg, Bonnie Bedelia, Blake Mclver Ewing, Dale Dickey

This sequel to *Sordid Lives* picks up 16 years after the original film and continues the comedic exploration of important issues by addressing marriage equality.



Warcraft

Production companies: Legendary Pictures, Blizzard Entertainment, Atlas Entertainment

Location of principal photography: Vancouver, BC

Writer: Charles Leavitt, Duncan Jones

Director: Duncan Jones

Key cast: Travis Fimmel, Paula Patton, Ben Foster, Dominic Cooper, Toby Kebbell, Ben Schnetzer, Robert Kazinsky, Daniel Wu

The peaceful realm of Azeroth stands on the brink of war as its civilization faces a fearsome race of invaders: Orc warriors fleeing their dying home to colonize another. As a portal opens to connect the two worlds, one army faces destruction and the other faces extinction. From opposing sides, two heroes are set on a collision course that will decide the fate of their family, their people and their home.

War for the Planet of the Apes

Production company: Chernin Entertainment

Location of principal photography: Vancouver, BC

Writer: Matt Reeves

Director: Matt Reeves, Mark Bomback

Key cast: Andy Serkis, Woody Harrelson, Steve Zahn, Judy Greer

This is the third instalment of the *Planet of the Apes* reboot series, starring Andy Serkis as Caesar, the leader of a worldwide primate revolt against humanity.



X-Men: Apocalypse

Production companies: Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation, Marvel Entertainment, TSG Entertainment

Location of principal photography: Montreal, QC

Writers: Simon Kinberg, Bryan Singer, Simon Kinberg, Michael Dougherty, Dan Harris

Director: Bryan Singer

Key cast: James McAvoy, Michael Fassbender, Jennifer Lawrence

It’s 1983, and the X-Men must stop the ancient mutant En Sabah Nur, who plans to cleanse the human race and take over the world.



xXx: The Return of Xander Cage

Production companies: Paramount Pictures, Revolution Studios

Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON

Writers: F. Scott Frazier, Chad St. John

Director: D. J. Caruso

Key cast: Vin Diesel, Deepika Padukone, Samuel L. Jackson, Donnie Yen, Ruby Rose, Nina Dobrev, Kris Wu, Tony Jaa

Recruiting an all-new group of thrill-seeking cohorts, Xander finds himself enmeshed in a deadly conspiracy that points to collusion at the highest levels of world governments.

Why Authenticity Matters

A Q&A with Great Pacific Media’s David Way

Unscripted television isn’t an easy genre: producers are beholden to the real-life machinations of its subjects. Great Pacific Media (A Thunderbird Company), the team behind the popular series *Highway Thru Hell* and *Game of Homes*, knows this first-hand. We chatted with GPM’s creative director about the secret to developing real-life stories that audiences adore.

What’s your process for finding relatable characters in unscripted programming?

We look for people with great, authentic qualities about what they do. They really know their stuff. They’re the type of people who naturally tell stories, who would walk into a room and tell you about the interesting day they had.

We’re looking for people who are unsung heroes or are larger than life.

And, we look for situations and places where the drama is naturally occurring and the characters have a natural struggle they have to overcome. So for example, *Highway Thru Hell* is a series about unsung heroes whose job it is to keep one of the most dangerous and difficult highways open through difficult winter months.

Why do you think that resonates with audiences?

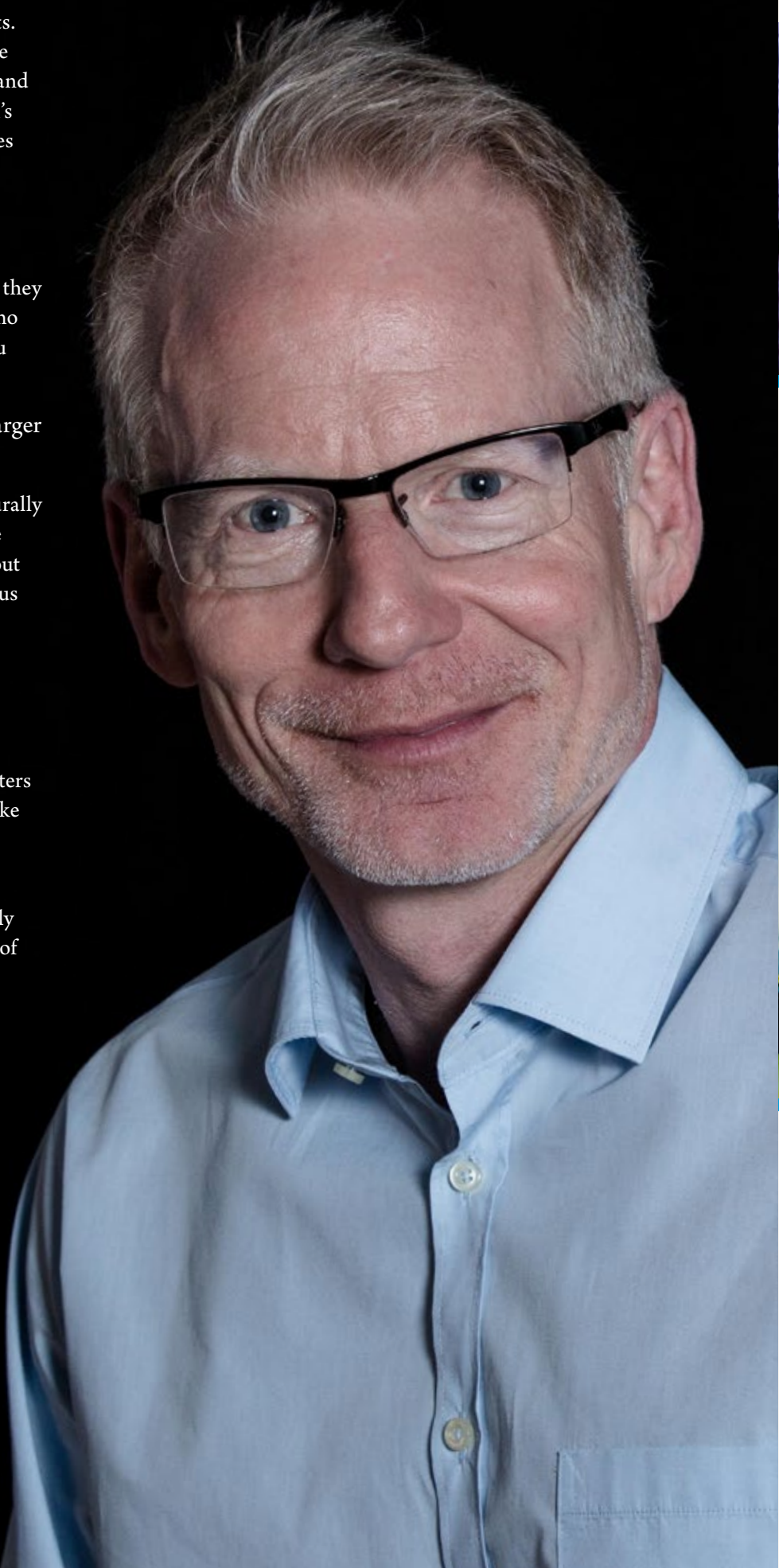
The characters have a self-reliance quality we look up to and admire.

The lifestyle field is very different. I think you look for characters that people love. You look for aspirational characters who make audiences wish they’d come into their lives and take care of whatever home issue there is.

For *Highway Thru Hell*, the setting itself is beautiful, incredibly dangerous, but also relatable. This is Canada, after all – most of us have a relationship with driving in winter. Our characters are people whose job it is to deal with car crashes and winter driving at the most extreme level possible.

What stories are you hoping to tell over the next couple of years?

We have a spinoff series from the *Highway* franchise called *Heavy Rescue 401*. We are in early stages on two new lifestyle series in the home-reno space. We’re in the early stages of a number of international co-production projects on what people would think of as “traditional documentaries.” We’re also working with some of the new digital players in the industry – it’s new technology but it’s still great stories, great characters and great narratives, and it’s definitely opened up new avenues of business. 🍀



Canadian Documentary Film



After Circus

Production company: Tortuga Films
Location of principal photography: Sarasota, FL
Director: Viveka Melki
Writers: Michael Allcock, Vincent Guignard

For decades we have run away with the circus, momentarily fleeing our problems. But few of us have ever given a second thought as to what happens to these artists “off the wire,” after they have spent their lives entertaining and inspiring us. This film takes a unique look at a tightly drawn community in Sarasota, Florida, one with a deep value system that seems almost out of place today.



Aim for the Roses

Production company: Opus 59 Films
Location of principal photography: Mission, BC and Morrisburg, ON
Director: John Bolton
Writers: John Bolton, Brendan Woollard

A “musical docudrama” by John Bolton, inspired by the utterly amazing and completely ridiculous album by Mark Haney, inspired by the daredevil stunt to end all daredevil stunts by Ken Carter.



All Governments Lie: Truth, Deception, and the Spirit of I.F. Stone

Production company: White Pine Pictures
Location of principal photography: United States
Director: Fred Peabody

Independent journalists like Amy Goodman, Glenn Greenwald, Jeremy Scahill and Matt Taibbi are changing the face of journalism, providing investigative, adversarial alternatives to mainstream, corporate news outlets. Our cameras follow as they expose government and corporate deception – just as the ground-breaking independent journalist I.F. Stone did decades ago.



Angry Inuk

Production companies: Unikkaar Studios, EyeSteelFilm, National Film Board
Location of principal photography: Iqaluit, Kimmirut and Pangnirtung, NU, Ottawa, ON, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Brussels and Strasbourg

Director: Alethea Arnaquq-Baril
Writer: Alethea Arnaquq-Baril

Angry Inuk is about how Inuit hunters in tiny remote communities in the High Arctic are negatively affected by animal-rights groups protesting against the Canadian east-coast seal hunt that happens a thousand kilometres away.



Avenues of Escape

Production company: Flying Cloud Productions
Location of principal photography: Vancouver, BC
Director: Leon Lee
Writer: Leon Lee

During the crackdown on Falun Gong practitioners in China that claimed thousands of victims, the lives of three women intertwine as they embark on a dangerous journey to find freedom. Armed only with a road map and a desire for justice, they must rely on their wits, courage and the compassion of strangers to escape imprisonment and navigate a treacherous passageway out of communist China.



Black Code

Production company: Mercury Films Inc.
Director: Nicholas de Pencier

Based on the book by Prof. Ron Deibert, *Black Code* is the story of how the internet is being controlled and manipulated by governments, institutions and rogue actors in order to censor and monitor citizens. As this battle for control of cyberspace is waged, our ideas of citizenship, privacy and democracy are being challenged to the core.



Cheer Up

Production companies: Murmur Media, Napafilms (Finland)
Location of principal photography: Rovaniemi, Finland
Director: Christy Garland
Writer: Christy Garland

Cheer Up takes us into the teenage lives of a team of losing cheerleaders in the Arctic Circle, Finland. They try their best to get better and look perfect doing it, while really, life just sucks. For Patricia, Aino and Miia, finding out who they are, where they belong and what family means is much more important than any trophy.



Giants of Africa

Production company: Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment
Location of principal photography: Accra, Ghana, Lagos, Nigeria, Kagali, Rwanda, Nairobi, Kenya and Toronto, ON

Writer: Hubert Davis
Director: Hubert Davis

On a continent where dreams are often displaced for necessity and survival, the game of basketball brings hope to many young men raised on African soil. Masai Ujiri, president and general manager of the Toronto Raptors, returns to Africa each summer to stage basketball development camps. Young men from across the continent overcome staggering odds, with an unwavering spirit, to attend these camps, held in Nigeria, Kenya, Ghana and Rwanda. *Giants of Africa* captures the amazing physical and emotional journey that these young men endure.

Gulîstan, Land of Roses

Production companies: Peripheria, National Film Board of Canada, Mitosfilm (Germany)
Location of principal photography: Kurdistan
Director: Zayne Akyol
Writer: Zayne Akyol

They belong to the armed wing of the PKK, the Kurdistan Workers' Party, which is also an active guerrilla movement. The mission of these female fighters? Defend Kurdish territory in Iraq and Syria, and defeat ISIS (the armed militants of the so-called Islamic State group), all while embodying a revolutionary ideal advocating female empowerment.



Hip-Hop Evolution

Production company: Banger Films
Location of principal photography: New York, NY
Director: Darby Wheeler
Writer: Rodrigo Bascunan

Acclaimed Canadian rapper Shad acts as our informed and enthusiastic guide, travelling to the Bronx and Harlem to talk with hip hop's originators and biggest stars – Kool Herc, Afrika Bambaataa and Grandmaster Flash, among many others – tracing the music's development and influences from the underground to the global phenomenon it is today.



How to Prepare for Prison

Production company: Border City Pictures
Director: Matt Gallagher

Fuelled by fear, regret, defiance and redemption, *How to Prepare for Prison* follows the story of three people facing prison for the first time. Shot over three years, the feature goes behind the scenes and into the offices of lawyers and judges – and into the private homes of ordinary citizens caught in the crosshairs of the law.



I Am the Blues

Production company: EyeSteelFilm
Location of principal photography: Louisiana and Mississippi
Director: Daniel Cross

I Am the Blues takes the audience on a musical journey through the swamps of the Louisiana Bayou, the juke joints of the Mississippi Delta and the moonshine-soaked BBQs in the North Mississippi Hill Country. The film visits blues musicians rooted in the genre's heyday, many in their eighties, still living in the American deep south and touring the Chitlin' Circuit.



KONELĪNE: our land beautiful

Production company: Canada Wild Productions

Location of principal photography: Tahltan, BC

Director: Nettie Wild

Writer: Nettie Wild

KONELĪNE: our land beautiful is a sensual, cinematic celebration of northwestern British Columbia, and all the dreamers who move across it. Some hunt on the land. Some mine it. They all love it. Set deep in the traditional territory of the Tahltan First Nation, *KONELĪNE* captures beauty and complexity as one of Canada’s vast wildernesses undergoes irrevocable change.



League of Exotique Dancers

Production company: Storyline Entertainment

Location of principal photography: Las Vegas, NV, Fort Pierce, FL, San Francisco, CA, Detroit, MI and Nelson, BC

Director: Rama Rau

Writer: Rama Rau

With a blast of brassy jazz and a spin through the glitz of modern Las Vegas, Emmy Award–winning Storyline Entertainment and award-winning director Rama Rau’s documentary *League of Exotique Dancers* sets the stage for a provocative and eye-opening “backstage tour” of the golden age of burlesque through the colourful lives of unforgettable women who made it glitter.



Metamorphosis

Production companies: Clique Pictures, Transparent Film

Location of principal photography: United States, Canada, Mexico, Canary Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji, Italy and Spain

Directors: Nova Ami, Velcrow Ripper

Writers: Nova Ami, Velcrow Ripper

Metamorphosis is a compelling and visually stunning feature documentary that takes the pulse of our shape-shifting earth. Personal stories from front-line climate-crisis survivors and surprising perspectives from artists, authors and scientists give fresh insight into how humanity is being transformed by the ecological crisis we have created. You have never seen a climate-change film like this.



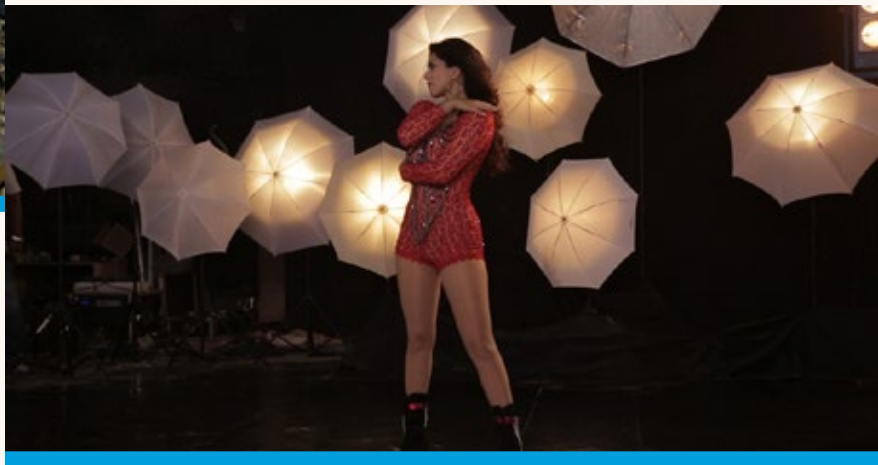
Michael Shannon Michael Shannon John

Production company: MSMSJ Productions

Director: Chelsea McMullan

Writer: Chelsea McMullan

Sixteen years ago, a middle-aged Canadian named John Hanmer was mysteriously murdered in the Philippines. Surviving him were his four children named Michael, Shannon, Michael and Shannon. This is not a typo.



Mostly Sunny

Production companies: Hamilton-Mehta Productions, Ballinran Entertainment

Location of principal photography: India, Canada, US and Malaysia

Writers: Deepa Mehta, Dilip Mehta

Director: Dilip Mehta

Mostly Sunny is a documentary that tells the remarkable story of Sunny Leone, the Canadian-born, American-bred adult-film star who is pursuing her dreams of Bollywood stardom.



Quebec My Country Mon Pays

Production company: John Walker Productions

Location of principal photography: Montreal, QC

Director: John Walker

Writer: John Walker

Quebec My Country Mon Pays charts the aftermath of Quebec’s Quiet Revolution in the 1960s. This social justice movement unleashed dramatic cultural and political changes that led to the separatist movement, the FLQ terrorist crisis and, ultimately, the exodus of more than 500,000 English-speaking Quebecers. Montreal-born filmmaker John Walker reveals his own complicated relationship with the province in a film brimming with love and longing.



The Skyjacker’s Tale

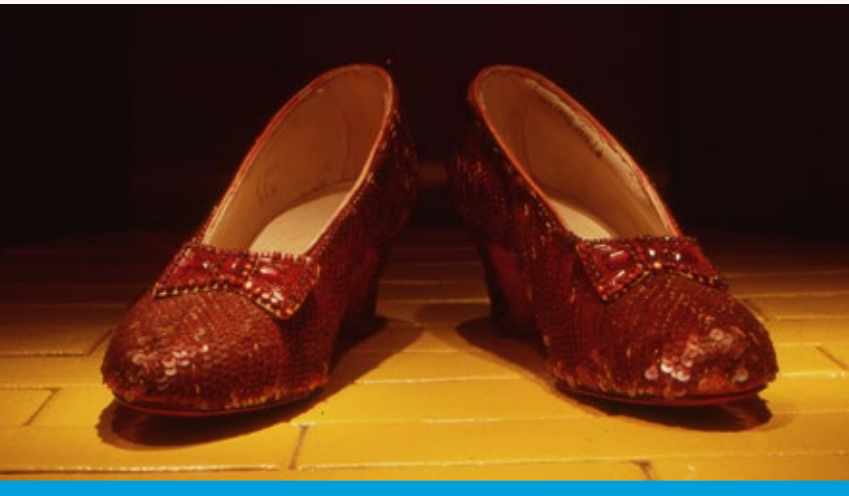
Production company: Cave 7 Productions

Location of principal photography: Cuba and US Virgin Islands

Writer: Jamie Kastner

Director: Jamie Kastner

The Skyjacker’s Tale is a feature doc thriller built around unprecedented access to one of the most wanted US fugitives living in Cuba, whom the Americans are anxious to bring to justice in light of warming relations between the two countries.



The Slippers

Production company: Tricon Films & Television

Location of principal photography: Las Vegas, NV

Director: Morgan White

Writers: Derek Lajeunesse, Morgan White

The Slippers is a feature-length documentary about the unbelievable world of the ruby slippers from *The Wizard of Oz*.



Spaceship Earth

Production company: Primitive Entertainment

Director: Kevin McMahon

Writer: Kevin McMahon

For 50 years, scientists have been working to understand humanity’s daily influence on our planet’s life forces. *Spaceship Earth* is a poetic feature film exploring what they have learned, and what that tells us about our responsibility for steering the only ship in the universe known to carry life.



Spirit Unforgettable

Production companies: Little Kingdom Productions, Project 10 Productions

Director: Pete McCormack

The story of iconic Canadian band Spirit of the West, and lead singer John Mann’s battle with early-onset Alzheimer’s. The moving documentary culminates with the band’s one and only performance at Toronto’s legendary Massey Hall.



The Stairs

Production company: Midnight Lamp Films Inc.

Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON

Director: Hugh Gibson

The Stairs follows the triumphs and heartbreaks of three drug counsellors (struggling with their own addictions) in a turbulent story of resilience, spanning several years. Executive-produced by Alan Zweig (*Hurt*, *When Jews Were Funny*, *A Hard Name*).



Tempest Storm

Production company: Shotglass Productions

Location of principal photography: Las Vegas, NV

Director: Nimisha Mukerji

Writers: Nimisha Mukerji, Kaitlyn Regehr

Tempest Storm was mistress to both Elvis and JFK, and became an international star on the stage and screen in the 1950s. At the age of 87, she is considered to be the greatest living burlesque dancer, but her success came at a great personal cost. Exploring her dramatic rise to fame as an entertainer and her swift fall from grace after pursuing an interracial marriage, *Tempest Storm* is a feature documentary that bares all to tell the controversial life story of an American sex icon.



Two Soft Things, Two Hard Things

Production company: MKW Productions

Location of principal photography: Iqaluit, NU

Directors: Mark Kenneth Woods, Michael Yerxa

Writers: Mark Kenneth Woods, Michael Yerxa

Two Soft Things, Two Hard Things is a feature documentary that explores the complexities of a remote Arctic community holding an LGBTQ pride celebration.



Wizard Mode

Production company: Salazar Film

Location of principal photography: Vancouver, BC and Pittsburgh, PA

Directors: Nathan Drillot, Jeff Lee Petry

A candid personal perspective on autism through the life of one of the world’s greatest pinball players. Robert Gagno’s real challenge lies outside the game on his journey to shed his youth and gain independence.

TAKEN

Tackling a tough topic with empathy

Amid the political attention and national discussion about murdered and missing Indigenous women, the series *Taken* is set to debut on the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network and CBC this fall.

The 13-episode, 30-minute show looks at the cold-case files of murdered and missing women, with the ultimate goal of generating tips from the public that could aid in the resolution of these unsolved cases.



Eagle Vision's Lisa Meeches is the producer and host of *Taken* (Photo credit: Kyle Irving)



The 2014 murder of teenager **Tina Fontaine** spurred the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

Eagle Vision's Lisa Meeches, the show's executive producer and co-creator, first came up with the idea four years ago while pregnant with her first daughter. Around the same time, a global UN study was released, which noted that by the time they reach the age of 18, the majority of Indigenous women around the world are likely to be either victims of abuse, addicts, or dead. "And here I was with this little Indigenous girl in my belly," Meeches says. "I was afraid."

It was when she came upon an old episode of *America's Most Wanted* that inspiration struck: maybe there was a way to help with this growing problem and possibly even provide closure to some of the affected families.

It would take more than a year of hard-selling for the project to be taken seriously. "It wasn't until it became a national news story that the broadcasters became interested," says Kyle Irving, Eagle Vision partner, co-creator and executive producer on the series.

With the increase in national attention, however, a new challenge arose: how could Eagle Vision tell the traumatic stories about a vulnerable group of individuals without sensationalizing their struggles or stereotyping them further?

While there was some expectation of dramatization from the broadcasters – in line with other true-crime genre programming – Irving says the project strikes a delicate balance between making the stories engaging for the viewer, while also being sensitive to the community. The ultimate goal, he says, is to get the content seen by as many people as possible and thus increase the likelihood of incoming tips.

"The key with the writing was to respect each individual through every step of the interview process, from loved ones, to law enforcement, to activists and political leaders," co-creator, cre-



Tina's Great Aunt, **Thelma Favel**, holding a painting of Tina Fontaine

ative producer and head writer Rebecca Gibson says. "Each individual opened up and shared their truth. There is nothing sensationalized about it."

Irving says the team was focused on breaking down the prevailing stereotype of missing Indigenous girls and women as runaways and drug addicts. With this in mind, a significant amount of screen time is devoted to telling the stories of the individuals. They want viewers to get a true sense of the personalities and lives of these women – something much deeper than just a name and a photo on the evening news.

"We've done a lot of work in the Indigenous community," says Meeches. "As a result, we've garnered a lot of respect. But I will say I had never – as an Indigenous producer – been faced with the fact that families were so fearful because of how media portrayed their loved ones. They were [seen as] not-so-good people – addicts, prostitutes, troubled women. But they're so much more than those things. [In] more than half of our stories, these women come from good, holistic families that were loved and had teachings and culture behind them."

It took a lot of conversations and empathy, she says. Many of these families live in fear of the phone ringing: it could be a reporter with pestering questions, police who've uncovered bad news, or even people threatening their lives should they speak out. Slowly, however, families started opening up, and as they did, more began reaching out to the production team, hoping to have their stories told as well. Meeches and Irving chalk it up to the one principle that's guided their entire process.

"I have to face my community at the end of the day, so I can't afford to sensationalize these stories," she says. "We have to tell the truth." 🌱

Brave New Worlds

A Q&A with Shaftesbury/Smokebomb’s Jay Bennett

If digital content is the wild west of the media production world, then Shaftesbury/Smokebomb are frontier pioneers. In addition to international audience favourites like *Murdoch Mysteries* and kids’ series such as *The Mobles*, the team has developed new types of online content, such as the Google Glass augmented-reality series *State of Syn*, and new funding models

How do you encourage innovation in the digital sphere?

We like to talk about something we call the 70-20-10 model. For us, 70 per cent of our time and energy should be focused on traditional television, 20 per cent focused on work in the branded and digital space, and the remaining 10 per cent focused on experimenting with new platforms like virtual reality, as well as new financing models.

When we first began *Carmilla*, season one was in the 10 per cent bucket, since we were dealing with a new production model. Now, we’ve fine-tuned and solidified the financing with the brand, so seasons two and three have moved into the 20 per cent bucket. We’re looking to move that to the 70 per cent category in the next year, as we begin to develop content for new platforms.

What are some of the biggest challenges of digital production?

Traditionally, you make content and provide it to the broadcaster and they take care of marketing. But that’s no longer the case. As producers, we’re also the distributors and marketers. You can’t just put out content and expect it to take flight. It takes a lot of manpower and interaction with fans. You have to foster relationships with them.

What’s next for Shaftesbury/Smokebomb?

In addition to our development of traditional film and television and digital extensions of those brands, we’re exploring three main categories. First, virtual reality – we have our first title in market called *Slasher*, a VR experience based on the dramatic television series, which invites the player to navigate the murder mystery themselves. This serves as a companion project to the TV series, which premiered in Canada and the US earlier this year, but also stands on its own. Second, we’re working on what is known as game peripherals – developing gaming platforms on which we can tell stories. And the third category is a focus on data – looking at how we can harness the information that our content generates to better target, engage and monetize audiences across platforms. ♦

such as the brand partnership with U by Kotex that led to the multi-award-winning *Carmilla*. We sat down with Jay Bennett, Senior Vice President, Creative & Innovation at Shaftesbury/Smokebomb, to talk about some of the biggest challenges facing producers in the online space and to find out his (not-so-secret) formula for innovation.

Canadian TV • Drama

1491: The Untold Story of the Americas Before Columbus

Production companies: Animiki See Digital Production, Arrow Productions
Where to watch: APTN
Location of principal photography: Victoria, BC, Peru, Mexico and US
Season: Miniseries

Based on the bestselling book by the same name by Charles C. Mann, *1491: The Untold Story of the Americas Before Columbus* combines history, archaeology and science to offer a novel interpretation of America’s pre-Columbus history and its Indigenous population.



19-2

Production companies: Sphere Media Plus, Echo Media
Where to watch: Bravo
Location of principal photography: Montreal, QC
Season: 4
Key cast: Jared Keeso, Adrian Holmes, Benz Antoine, Mylène Dinh-Robic, Laurence Leboeuf, Dan Petronijevic, Conrad Pla, Bruce Ramsay, Maxim Roy

After Montreal police veteran Nick Barron’s (Adrian Holmes) partner is shot on the job, Ben Chartier (Jared Keeso), an officer new to town and burdened with his own personal demons, unwittingly pairs up with Barron. The two must overcome their personal differences for the good of the city.



Aftermath

Production company: Halfire Entertainment
Where to watch: Space
Location of principal photography: Langley, BC
Season: 1
Key cast: James Tupper, Anne Heche, Levi Meaden, Taylor Hickson, Julia Sarah Stone

A family of five’s strength is tested when the world around them turns to catastrophic destruction and they struggle to survive in the 13-episode thriller *Aftermath*. As the Copeland family endeavours to make it through to the mysterious next phase, they must desperately fight to keep one another safe.

Alias Grace

Production companies: Halfire Entertainment, Tangled Productions
Where to watch: CBC
Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON
Season: Miniseries
Key cast: Sarah Gadon

Based on both the historical true story of convicted murderer Grace Marks and Margaret Atwood’s novel of the same name, *Alias Grace* tells the controversial story of Grace Marks, the poor, Irish immigrant and domestic server in Upper Canada who was convicted of murdering her two employers and subsequently sentenced to life in prison. The miniseries will air on CBC in Canada and on Netflix in the rest of the world.

Anne

Production companies: Northwood Entertainment, Monumental Pictures (UK)
Where to watch: CBC

In this new series based on the Lucy Maud Montgomery classic, Anne of Green Gables gets a makeover. Anne must face issues that still affect contemporary audiences: prejudice, feminism, bullying and the desire to belong.

Bad Blood: The Vito Rizzuto Story

Production companies: New Metric Media, Sphere Media, DHX Media
Where to watch: City, FX Canada
Season: Miniseries

A six-part miniseries based on the popular non-fiction book *Business or Blood: Mafia Boss Vito Rizzuto’s Last War*, about the final years of Montreal mobster Vito Rizzuto’s life.



Between

Production companies: Don Carmody Television, Mulmur Feed Co.
Where to watch: City, Netflix
Location of principal photography: Hamilton, ON
Season: 2
Key cast: Jennette McCurdy, Jesse Carere, Mercedes Morris, Steven Grayhm, Shailyn Pierre-Dixon, Jack Murray, Justin Kelly, Ryan Allen

Between is a sci-fi series about a teen mom (Jennette McCurdy) who’s forced to fend for herself after her small town, Pretty Lake, is infected by a mysterious disease that kills all inhabitants over 21 years old.



Blood and Water

Production company: Breakthrough Entertainment
Where to watch: OMNI
Location of principal photography: Vancouver, BC
Season: 2
Key cast: Simu Liu, Loretta Yu, Elfina Luk, Steph Song, Osric Chau, Peter Outerbridge

Blood and Water is a series that revolves around police detective Josephine Bradley (Steph Song). The show is Canada’s first original Chinese crime drama and is also Canada’s first trilingual series, broadcast in Mandarin, Cantonese and English.

Cardinal

Production companies: Sienna Films, Entertainment One
Where to watch: CTV
Location of principal photography: Sudbury, ON
Season: Miniseries
Key cast: Billy Campbell, Karine Vanasse

Cardinal is adapted from the award-winning novel *Forty Words for Sorrow*, written by Giles Blunt. *Cardinal* follows detectives Cardinal and Delorme as they attempt to uncover the mystery of what happened to a young girl, discovered in an abandoned mine. But as the case grows in scope and horror, a secret from Cardinal’s history threatens to derail the investigation.



Dark Matter

Production companies: Prodigy Pictures, Dark Horse Entertainment
Where to watch: Space
Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON
Season: 2
Key cast: Marc Bendavid, Melissa O’Neil, Anthony Lemke, Alex Mallari Jr, Jodelle Ferland, Roger Cross, Zoie Palmer

An adrenaline-packed sci-fi series, which producers Paul Mullie and Joseph Mallozzi based on their comic book of the same name. It is about a group of six people who one day wake up on a mysterious starship without remembering how they got there, and must figure out the meaning of it all as they go.

The Disappearance

Production company: Productions Casablanca
Where to watch: CTV
Location of principal photography: Montreal, QC
Season: 1

This mysterious and thrilling six-episode miniseries follows the disappearance of 10-year-old Anthony Wilson, who vanishes on his birthday during a treasure hunt.



Frontier

Production companies: Take the Shot Productions, Factory Backwards
Where to watch: Discovery Canada
Location of principal photography: St. John’s, NL
Season: 1
Key cast: Jason Momoa, Alun Armstrong, Allan Hawco, Landon Liboiron, Jessica Matten

Frontier is Discovery Canada’s first original scripted series. The six-episode, hour-long series charts the politics and ruthless competition that defined the North American fur trade in the late 18th century.



Good Witch

Production company: Whizbang Films
Where to watch: W Network
Location of principal photography: Hamilton, ON
Season: 3
Key cast: Catherine Bell, Bailee Madison, James Denton, Catherine Disher, Anthony Lemke, Peter MacNeill, Kylee Evans

Good Witch is a fantasy comedy-drama series, based on the made-for-TV movie series of the same name. Cassie Nightingale (Catherine Bell) is an enchanting witch who moves to a small town and causes strange things to happen.



Hard Rock Medical

Production company: Distinct Features Inc.
Where to watch: TVO, APTN
Location of principal photography: North Bay, ON
Season: 3
Key cast: Angela Asher, Rachele Casseus, Mark Coles Smith, Tamara Duarte, Kyra Harper, Danielle Bourgon, Christian Laurin, Stéphane Paquette, Melissa Jane Shaw, Jamie Spilchuk, Andrea Menard, Patrick McKenna

Instructed by a charismatic and diverse faculty, eight students try to make it through a gruelling four-year program in the world’s most offbeat rural medical school.



Heartland

Production companies: Seven24 Films, Dynamo Films
Where to watch: CBC
Location of principal photography: High River, AB
Season: 10
Key cast: Amber Marshall, Michelle Morgan, Graham Wardle, Chris Potter, Shaun Johnston, Alisha Newton, Gabe Hogan, Jessica Steen, Nathaniel Arcand, Kerry James

A family saga, based on the *Heartland* book series by Lauren Brooke, set in the fictional town of Hudson, Alberta, about the Fleming-Bartlett clan and their life on the range. The Fleming sisters, Amy (Amber Marshall) and Lou (Michelle Morgan), cope with their mother’s death by continuing her dream and caring for abused horses.



Houdini & Doyle

Production companies: Shaftesbury, Big Talk Productions (UK), in association with Shore Z Production
Where to watch: Global
Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON and Manchester, UK
Season: 1
Key cast: Stephen Mangan, Michael Weston, Rebecca Liddiard, Tim McInnerny, Adam Nagaitis

Houdini & Doyle is a mystery adventure drama series in which two great men of the 20th century – Harry Houdini and Arthur Conan Doyle – grudgingly join forces with New Scotland Yard to investigate unsolved and inexplicable crimes with a supernatural slant.



Killjoys

Production company: Temple Street Productions, a division of Boat Rocker Media
Where to watch: Space
Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON
Season: 2
Key cast: Hannah John-Kamen, Aaron Ashmore, Luke Macfarlane

Killjoys is a space adventure drama series about three bounty hunters living in a distant system called the Quad. Accustomed to the usual interplanetary crime-fighting lifestyle, the three vow to remain neutral when a multi-planetary class war breaks out.

Madiba

Production companies: Blue Ice Pictures, Left Bank Pictures (UK), Out of Africa Entertainment (South Africa)
Location of principal photography: South Africa
Season: Miniseries
Key cast: Laurence Fishburne
A six-episode miniseries on the life of Nelson Mandela.

Mary Kills People

Production companies: Cameron Pictures, Entertainment One
Where to watch: Global
Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON
Season: Miniseries
Key cast: Caroline Dhavernas, Jay Ryan, Richard Short, Lyriq Bent, Greg Bryk, Abigail Winters, Charlotte Sullivan

Dr. Mary Harris is a single mother and doctor by day, who also helps terminally ill patients who want to die slip away on their own terms. So far Mary has managed to stay under the radar, but when her world starts to unravel, Mary realizes she’s going to have to fight dirty if she’s going to stay in the killing game.



Murdoch Mysteries

Production company: Shaftesbury
Where to watch: CBC
Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON
Season: 10
Key cast: Yannick Bisson, H       Joy, Thomas Craig, Jonny Harris

Set in Toronto at the dawn of the 20th century, *Murdoch Mysteries* is a one-hour drama series that explores the intriguing world of William Murdoch (Yannick Bisson), a methodical and dashing detective who pioneers innovative forensic techniques to solve some of the city’s most gruesome murders.



Orphan Black

Production company: Temple Street Productions, a division of Boat Rocker Media
Where to watch: Space
Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON
Season: 5
Key cast: Tatiana Maslany, Jordan Gavaris, Kristian Bruun, Maria Doyle Kennedy, Kevin Hanchard, Ari Millen, Josh Vokey, Skyler Wexler, Joel Thomas Hynes

Orphan Black is a Canadian sci-fi series about a con artist and orphan with a dark past, Sarah Manning (Tatiana Maslany), who steals the identity of one of her many clones, Beth Childs, after Beth commits suicide, in the hopes of starting a new life for herself and her daughter, Kira.



Private Eyes

Production companies: Entertainment One, Pillar Segan
Where to watch: Global
Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON
Season: 1
Key cast: Jason Priestley, Cindy Sampson, Barry Flatman, Jordyn Negri, Clé Bennett, Ennis Esmer

The crime-solving series *Private Eyes* is a 10-episode procedural drama that follows ex-pro hockey player Matt Shade (Jason Priestley), who irrevocably changes his life when he decides to team up with fierce PI Angie Everett (Cindy Sampson) to form an unlikely investigative powerhouse. Through their new partnership, Shade is forced to examine who he has become and who he wants to be.

Ransom

Production companies: Entertainment One, Sienna Films, Wildcats Productions (France)
Where to watch: Global
Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON and Nice, France
Season: 1
Key cast: Luke Roberts, Sarah Greene, Brandon Jay McLaren, Nazneen Contractor

Inspired by distinguished crisis negotiator Laurent Combalbert, *Ransom* follows crisis and hostage negotiator Eric Beaumont, whose team is brought in to save lives when no one else can. Eric understands criminals better than they do, and uses his insight to resolve the most difficult kidnap and ransom cases.



Reign

Production companies: Take 5 Productions, Whizbang Films
Where to watch: CTV Two
Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON
Season: 4
Key cast: Adelaide Kane, Megan Follows, Torrance Coombs, Toby Regbo, Jenessa Grant, Celina Sinden, Caitlin Stasey, Anna Popplewell, Alan Van Sprang, Rachel Skarsten

Reign is a historical fantasy romance series, set in France, about the early years of Mary, Queen of Scots. Full of sex, castles, visions, arranged marriages and highly complex hair braids. In season three, Queen Mary (Adelaide Kane) struggles to hold on to her power in Scotland amidst Queen Elizabeth’s (Rachel Skarsten) campaign to sabotage her, with the help of a new ally in Queen Catherine (Megan Follows).



Rogue

Production company: Entertainment One
Where to watch: TMN
Location of principal photography: Vancouver, BC
Season: 4
Key cast: Cole Hauser, Meaghan Rath, Ashley Greene, Richard Schiff, Sergio Di Zio

Ethan moves back to San Francisco to be left alone. But helping out Ray’s younger brother soon puts him in the sights of a corrupt cop. When Ethan fights back, he’s dragged into a nightmare which will prove his toughest challenge yet. Meanwhile, Mia will stop at nothing to get revenge over Ethan for double-crossing her, and Patrick is on Mia’s trail, hell-bent on seeking justice for Harper’s murder.



The Romeo Section

Production companies: Haddock Entertainment, Terra Films
Where to watch: CBC
Location of principal photography: Vancouver, BC
Season: 2
Key cast: Andrew Airlie, Juan Riedinger, Fei Ren

The second season of *The Romeo Section* finds freelance intelligence agent Wolfgang McGee tasked with a covert investigation of a terrorist incident as he tries to determine who was behind the murderous scheme and why.



Saving Hope

Production companies: ICF Films, Entertainment One
Where to watch: CTV
Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON
Season: 5
Key cast: Erica Durance, Michael Shanks, Wendy Crewson, Michelle Nolden, Benjamin Ayres, Julia Taylor Ross, Huse Madhavji

Alex and Charlie cannot catch a break. Be it a coma or a car crash, a hospital stabbing or an aggressive brain tumour – it seems as if the very forces of fate have conspired to keep them apart, even if their love has proved equal to the task. Are Charlie and Alex destined to be together? Or will they have to buck fate in order to remain in each other’s lives?



Shoot the Messenger

Production company: Hungry Eyes Film and Television Inc.
Where to watch: CBC
Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON
Season: 1
Key cast: Elyse Levesque, Lucas Bryant, Lyriq Bent, Alex Kingston

This suspenseful eight-episode one-hour drama follows a young journalist who witnesses a murder and becomes embroiled with urban gangs, politicians and the business elite while clashing with the lead detective on the case.



Slasher

Production company: Shaftesbury
Where to watch: Super Channel
Location of principal photography: Parry Sound and Sault Ste. Marie, ON
Season: 1
Key cast: Katie McGrath, Brandon Jay McLaren, Steve Byers, Patrick Garrow, Dean McDermott, Christopher Jacot

In this psychological thriller series, a young woman returns to the small town where she was born, only to find herself the centrepiece in a series of horrifying copycat murders based on the brutal killing of her parents.



Studio Black!

Production company: Picture Plant Limited
Where to watch: CBC
Location of principal photography: Nova Scotia
Season: 2
Key cast: Stephen M.D. Lawrence, Cavell Holland, Brent Williams, Kate MacDonald, Nathan Simmons, Koumbie, Adrian Bromfield

A new miniseries that further explores old stories collected from rural and urban black communities in 1920s Nova Scotia. An ensemble cast of black actors team up with black directors to tell stories of Canadian experiences.



This Life

Production company: Sphere Media Plus
Where to watch: CBC
Location of principal photography: Montreal, QC
Season: 2
Key cast: Torri Higginson, Lauren Lee Smith, James Wotherspoon, Stephanie Janusauskas, Julia Scarlett Dan, Kristopher Turner, Shawn Doyle, Rick Roberts, Peter MacNeill, Janet-Laine Green, Rachael Crawford

This Life is a drama series based on the French series *Nouvelle adresse* by Richard Blaimert, about lifestyle columnist and single mother Natalie Lawson (Torri Higginson). After being diagnosed with terminal cancer, Natalie must teach her three teenage children to embrace the present and prepare for a future on their own.

Travelers

Production company: Peacock Alley Entertainment
Where to watch: Showcase
Location of principal photography: Vancouver, BC
Season: 1
Key cast: Eric McCormack, Mackenzie Porter, Patrick Gilmore, Jared Paul Abrahamson, Nesta Marlee Cooper, Reilly Dolman

An original time-travelling sci-fi series set hundreds of years in the future, where the last humans alive on Earth must learn how to send their consciousness back in time, to people living now.



Van Helsing

Production company: Nomadic Pictures
Where to watch: Super Channel
Location of principal photography: Vancouver, BC
Season: 1
Key cast: Kelly Overton, Jonathan Scarfe, Christopher Heyerdahl

Van Helsing is a story about Vanessa Van Helsing (daughter of the famous vampire hunter Abraham Van Helsing), who is humanity’s last hope five years into the future in a world completely dominated by vampires.



Versailles

Production companies: Incendo, Capa Drama (France), Zodiak Fiction & Docs (France)
Location of principal photography: Versailles and Paris, France
Season: 2
Key cast: George Blagden, Alexander Vlahos, Tygh Runyan, Stuart Bowman, Anna Brewster, Noémie Schmidt, Evan Williams, Suzanne Clément, Mark Rendall, Catherine Walker, Alexis Michalik, Steve Cumyn, Elisa Lasowski, Maddison Jaizani, Gilly Gilcrhist, Pip Torrense, George Webster, Lizzie Brocheré, Alexis Michalik, Geoffrey Bateman, Joe Sheridan, Jessica Clark, Gary Hadden Paton, Greta Scacchi

Versailles, 1671: Louis has completed the first phase of construction. Surrounded by corruption, greed and lewd behaviour, he watches his dream crumble and loses his sense of purpose as the nobility start to turn against him. Blinded by passion and hatred, he remains deaf to the Church’s injunctions. Will the dream of Versailles prevail?



Vikings

Production companies: Take 5 Productions, Octagon Films (Ireland)
Where to watch: History
Location of principal photography: Ireland
Season: 5
Key cast: Travis Fimmel, Katheryn Winnick, Clive Standen, Gustaf Skarsgård, George Blagden, Alexander Ludwig, Alyssa Sutherland

This historical drama is an epic tale of bloodshed, war and conquest as it follows a band of adventurous young Vikings led by one of the best-known legendary Norse heroes, Ragnar Lothbrok.



When Calls the Heart

Production company: Believe Pictures
Where to watch: Super Channel, CBC
Location of principal photography: Vancouver, BC
Season: 4
Key cast: Erin Krakow, Daniel Lessing, Lori Loughlin, Chelah Horsdal, Martin Cummins

Set in 1910 and inspired by the book of the same name by Janette Oke, *When Calls the Heart* follows Elizabeth Thatcher (Erin Krakow), a young teacher accustomed to high society. She is forced to adapt to a new gritty life when, to her surprise, she's assigned to teach in a small mining town, Coal Valley, in the aftermath of a devastating explosion that killed more than a dozen miners and left their wives to fend for themselves. One of these wives, Abigail Stanton (Lori Loughlin), is welcoming, but Constable Jack Thornton (Daniel Lessing) – not so much.



Wynonna Earp

Production company: Seven24 Films
Where to watch: CHCH
Location of principal photography: Calgary, AB
Season: 1
Key cast: Melanie Scrofano, Shamier Anderson, Tim Rozon, Dominique Provost-Chalkley

Wynonna (Melanie Scrofano), the great-granddaughter of Wyatt Earp, returns home to tackle demons and other supernatural beings with the help of Doc Holliday (Tim Rozon) and Agent Dolls (Shamier Anderson). The show is a one-hour series based on the IDW Publishing comic created by Beau Smith.



X Company

Production companies: Temple Street Productions (a division of Boat Rocker Media), Pioneer Stillking Films (Hungary)
Where to watch: CBC
Location of principal photography: Dieppe, France and Budapest, Hungary
Season: 3
Key cast: Évelyne Brochu, Jack Laskey, Warren Brown, Dustin Milligan, Connor Price, Hugh Dillon, Lara Jean Chorostecki

An adrenaline-fuelled series about five young men from Canada, America and Britain who are recruited to a ultra-secret facility near Lake Ontario, where they're trained to become highly skilled spies and sent off to WWII. The series was inspired by stories about a real spy-training school located between Whitby and Oshawa, Ontario.

Feeling the Love! A data-driven case for made-in-Canada content

Around the world, independent producers find themselves working within a sector that is undergoing profound change. Here in Canada, producers have been kept on their toes by new, disruptive technologies, a consolidating broadcast industry and major regulatory revisions on the horizon. In the midst of all this change, it's important that indie producers stay grounded and focus on what's truly important. And that means keeping in tune with what their audiences want.

The good news? Research tells us that what they want is a thriving Canadian film and television production community, which they can be proud of.

A recent study, commissioned by the CMPA and carried out by Abacus Data,

found that 80 per cent of respondents feel a sense of pride when thinking about the people and companies that produce film and television in Canada. The study, which polled nearly 1,500 Canadians over the age of 18, also found that three-quarters believe the industry is growing. And that's a good thing, because fully 91 per cent of respondents say it's important for Canada to have a healthy, thriving television and film industry.

"It's very encouraging to see the support Canadians have for our country's film and television sector," notes the CMPA's president and CEO, Reynolds Mastin. "With close to \$9 billion generated in domestic GDP last year alone, we're a major economic contributor with huge growth potential for the years ahead."

"It's very encouraging to see the support Canadians have for our country's film and television sector." – Reynolds Mastin

The CMPA Survey results, conducted by Abacus Data, found that:

80% of respondents feel a sense of pride when thinking about the people and companies that produce film and television in Canada

91% of respondents say it's important for Canada to have a healthy, thriving television and film industry

72% of the survey respondents said broadcasters should shoulder at least some responsibility for funding Canadian content

88% said it's important that governments develop policies to promote Canada as an international venue for production

Given Canadians' enthusiasm for our homegrown producers, it's perhaps not surprising that they also believe there is some onus on broadcasters, government and new industry players such as Netflix to support Canadian productions. Specifically, close to three-quarters (72 per cent) of the survey respondents said broadcasters should shoulder at least some responsibility for funding Canadian content. A further 88 per cent said it's important that governments develop policies to promote Canada as an international venue for production, and 80 per cent agree that Canada should have policies that make it financially attractive for productions to film in Canada and hire Canadian talent and workers.

"Canadians want to see this sector supported," notes Mastin. "And that's completely understandable – the production sector is environmentally friendly, it drives

innovation, and let's be honest, it's cool; our producers create content that Canadians can be proud of."

With a growing slate of international exports, like *Rookie Blue* and *Motive* on ABC, and *Schitt's Creek* and *Degrassi* on Netflix, our content is coming into its own on the world stage. In fact, three-quarters of respondents believe that Canadian producers are making shows that can be watched around the world, while two-thirds consider Canadian content both popular and of great calibre.

"The digital revolution has created new opportunities for indie producers. It's also creating a borderless world that's allowing content to flow more freely from country to country," says Mastin. "And Canadians have proven again and again they have what it takes to make content that people the world over want to watch." 🍀

The film, television and digital industry in 2015

Independent producers made content in all genres for all ages and all platforms

Produced content in all regions across Canada, resulting in nearly **150,000** jobs

\$7.1 billion in national production volume

\$8.9 billion contribution to the national GDP

\$2.3 billion in export value

Created **700** TV series, **67** feature films, and **340** digital media projects

BEHIND THE SCENES



Adam's Testament stars **Luke Bilyk** and **Zoé De Grand Maison** pose in front of a green screen



Toronto stands in for Atlanta in the film *Deadly Dance Moms*



Newfoundland stands in for the fictional nation of Besco in **Chloé Robichaud's** *Pays*



Metamorphosis directors **Nova Ami** and **Velcrow Ripper** (with baby **Phoenix**)



Giants of Africa crew filming a bird's-eye view of Accra, Ghana



Filming for the film *Maliglutiit (Searchers)* by *Atanarjuat: The Fast Runner* director **Zacharias Kunuk** took place on Igloodik Island in northern Nunavut



Cast and crew keeping warm on the set of *The Journey Home*, shot in the polar bear capital of Canada, Churchill, MB



On the set of *Mr. D*, starring **Gerry Dee**



Shooting on a construction site in Mexico for **Juan Andrés Arango Garcia's** international drama *X Quinientos*



Shoot the Messenger co-creator/writer/director **Sudz Sutherland** with series star **Lyriq Bent**



On the set of *Russet Season*, directed by veteran actress **Sheila McCarthy** (*Little Mosque on the Prairie*; *Emily of New Moon*)

Laughing All The Way

A Q&A with Topsail Entertainment’s Mike Volpe

Halifax has a funny bone. And Topsail Entertainment continues to be a driving force in the city’s comedy production scene, with powerhouse brands like *Trailer Park Boys* and *Mr. D* under its belt. President Mike Volpe sits down with us to talk creativity, financing woes and how to make people laugh.

The industry is facing a lot of uncertainty from the regulatory and financing side: what’s your strategy to ensure you succeed in the face of this market upheaval?
There’s a lot of consolidation, but at the same time, Netflix, Hulu and Amazon in the United States have opened up new opportunities for content creators there. That’s just starting to come to Canada.

If you can set yourself apart creatively, you have a chance to survive the upheaval. You want to do something that’s not been done before. If it has been done, you try to do it better. I want to take risks wherever possible – as long as it’s funny and authentic to the characters. If it’s shock-value risk, then I’m not interested.

If the shows are good, we’ll find a way. It’s especially helpful if broadcasters have a similar mindset and do not shy away from comedies that may be pushing it a bit. We’ve been fortunate that CBC, for the last six years, has been an amazing partner with us in this regard on *Mr. D*.

How important is international financing or co-production to your business?
Comedy plays best nationally, so I tend to look for national partnerships rather than international ones.

What’s funny here may not be funny in Luxembourg. You try and make shows for the audiences you have, and it’s fantastic if it finds audiences in other countries. But it’s not something you strive for. You risk diluting your story if you try to make it too broad in its appeal.

What’s the secret in creating comedy series that connect with audiences?
Authenticity is a big part of it. If you look at *Mr. D* and *Trailer Park Boys*, they’re stories told by very authentic characters. *Mr. D* is told largely in Gerry Dee’s voice, and because he was a former teacher, that voice tends to ring true, and I think that helps with its appeal.

The series that I have been involved with are all scripted but have a heavy element of improv. For example, with *Mr. D*, the entire cast, led by Gerry, can improvise. You can write jokes on a page, and we have amazing writers, but that doesn’t translate 100 per cent of the time. If you have a great cast, they will polish on their feet and make a scene the best it can be. 🍀

Canadian TV • Comedy



Baroness von Sketch Show

Production company: Frantic Films
Where to watch: CBC
Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON
Season: 2
Key cast: Carolyn Taylor, Meredith MacNeill, Jennifer Whalen, Aurora Browne
The Baroness von Sketch Show is an all-female sketch comedy series that takes aim at all aspects of contemporary culture, from petty office politics and hipster culture to dragon parenting and online dating.



The Beaverton

Production company: Pier 21 Films
Where to watch: Comedy Network
Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON
Key cast: Emma Hunter, Miguel Riva, Aisha Alfa
A televised adaptation of the biting satirical website of the same name, *The Beaverton* is a witty weekly news/variety program that irreverently highlights the absurdity of the Canadian condition. Actors playing reporters and hosts report on fake stories informed by real events. The gap between reality and fiction isn’t always clear.

Bigfoot Town

Production company: Screaming Goat
Where to watch: Netflix
Location of principal photography: Berwick, NS
Key cast: Brandon Sawler, Jaden Braniff, Gillian Hazelwood, Emily Lutz, Todd Detcheverry, Collyn Boon, Sandy Buchan, Tim Vallillee
After the mill closes, Mayor Jack Westwoods must stop his town from going bankrupt. Meanwhile, uniformed tourists flock to the town, in search of Bigfoot.



Delmer & Marta

Production company: Mosaic Entertainment
Where to watch: APTN
Location of principal photography: Edmonton, AB
Season: 1
Key cast: Sheldon Elter, Howie Miller, Kevin McDonald

A spinoff of the award-winning sketch comedy series, *Caution: May Contain Nuts*. Comedians Sheldon Elter and Howie Miller play Delmer and Marta, a couple from the rez who relocate to “big city” Morningside, population of 40,000, where Marta is hired to host a morning television show, and Delmer does whatever he can to help out.



Four in the Morning

Production company: Serendipity Point Films
Where to watch: CBC
Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON
Season: 1
Key cast: Lola Tash, Michelle Mylett, Daniel Maslany, Mazin Elsadig

Four in the Morning is an unconventional comedy spiked with a touch of magical realism. The show follows four friends in their twenties as they navigate life at the unpredictable, emotional, but illuminative hour of 4 a.m.



Guilt Free Zone

Production company: Big Soul Productions
Where to watch: APTN
Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON
Season: 2
Key cast: Derek Miller (host)

Two-time Juno Award winner Derek Miller, an Aboriginal-Canadian singer-songwriter, crosses Canada with his travelling band of misfits, musicians and comedians in this always-surprising variety program. The only rule? No guilt allowed!



Kim's Convenience

Production companies: Thunderbird Films, Souleppper Theatre Company
Where to watch: CBC
Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON
Season: 1
Key cast: Paul Sun-Hyung Lee, Jean Yoon, Simu Liu, Andrea Bang, Andrew Phung, Nicole Power

Kim's Convenience is the funny, heartfelt story of the Kims, a Korean-Canadian family running a convenience store in downtown Toronto. As the family continues to work and live, finding humour in the everyday tasks of running the store, they long for the day when the years-old rift between father and son is mended and the family is whole once again.



Letterkenny

Production companies: New Metric Media, DHX Media
Where to watch: Comedy Network, CraveTV
Location of principal photography: Sudbury
Season: 2
Key cast: Jared Keeso, Nathan Dales, Dylan Playfair, Andrew Herr, Tyler Johnston, Alexander De Jordy, K. Trevor Wilson, Michelle Mylett

The residents of Letterkenny belong to one of three groups: the Hicks, the Skids and the Hockey Players, who are constantly feuding with each other over seemingly trivial matters that often end with someone getting their ass kicked.

Michael: Every Day

Production company: Rhombus Media
Where to watch: CBC
Location of principal photography: Ottawa, ON
Season: 2
Key cast: Matt Watts, Bob Martin

A follow-up to *Michael: Tuesdays and Thursdays*, a 12-episode series that ran on CBC in the fall of 2011. Years after the events of the original series, Michael seeks David's help again in order to get over his newfound fear of flying.



Mohawk Girls

Production company: Rezolution Pictures
Where to watch: APTN, OMNI
Location of principal photography: Montreal and Kahnawake, QC
Season: 4
Key cast: Jennifer Pudavick, Heather White, Maika Harper, Brittany LeBorgne, Meegwun Fairbrother, Kyle Nobess, Rachelle White Wind, Glen Gould, Dwain Murphy

Mohawk Girls is a scripted comedy-drama series developed by Tracey Deer, based on her 2005 documentary of the same name. It's a look at the lives of four modern Indigenous women trying to stay true to their roots while navigating sex, work and love on the Kahnawake reserve outside Montreal.



Mr. D

Production company: Topsail Entertainment
Where to watch: CBC, City
Location of principal photography: Halifax, NS
Season: 6
Key cast: Gerry Dee, Jonathan Torrens, Lauren Hammersley, Booth Savage, Bette MacDonald, Naomi Snieckus, Darrin Rose, Mark Little, Wes Williams, Mark Forward

Based on Gerry Dee’s life experience as a high-school teacher (before he pursued a career as a stand-up comic), gym teacher Gerry Duncan (Gerry Dee) is hired to teach social studies at Xavier Academy, a prestigious private school for kids in grades 5–12. D’s students often know more than he does, and he must fake his way through each class.



Raising Expectations

Production companies: Aircraft Pictures
Where to watch: Family Channel
Location of principal photography: Mississauga, ON
Season: 1
Key cast: Molly Ringwald, Jason Priestley, Luke Bilyk, Katie Douglas, Matthew Tissi, Jake Sim, Simon Cadel

Best-selling author Paige Wayney and her architect husband Wayne have worked hard at raising their five children to be “multi-exceptional,” and they succeeded... four times. Their youngest son, Emmett, may not be the most academic, athletic or artistic, but he makes up for that with his “street smarts.”



Rick Mercer Report

Production company: Island Edge Inc.
Where to watch: CBC
Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON
Season: 14
Key cast: Rick Mercer

On the *Rick Mercer Report*, Canada’s funniest man checks the pulse of the nation as he looks at the news and current affairs of the week with his unique brand of parody and satire. The audience can depend on a half-hour of the week’s newsmakers getting what they so justly deserve through Mercer’s razor-sharp wit.



Schitt’s Creek

Production company: Not A Real Company Productions Inc.
Where to watch: CBC
Location of principal photography: Orangeville, Goodwood and Toronto, ON
Season: 3
Key cast: Eugene Levy, Catherine O’Hara, Daniel Levy, Annie Murphy, Chris Elliott, Jennifer Robertson, Emily Hampshire, Tim Rozon, Sarah Levy, Dustin Milligan

After soap-opera star Moira (Catherine O’Hara) and her video-store magnate husband Johnny Rose (Eugene Levy) lose all their money, they and their two adult children David (Daniel Levy) and Alexis (Annie Murphy) move to a small town called Schitt’s Creek. The show also airs on Pop in the United States.



Photo by Oz John

Second Jen

Production company: Don Ferguson Productions
Where to watch: City, OMNI
Key cast: Samantha Wan, Amanda Joy

A TV series starring two second-generation Chinese- and Filipino-Canadian millennials who move into an apartment together to prove to their immigrant families, and themselves, that they can make it on their own.



Sensitive Skin

Production companies: Rhombus Media, Baby Cow Productions (UK)
Where to watch: HBO Canada
Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON
Season: 2
Key cast: Kim Cattrall, Don McKellar, Elliott Gould, Nicolas Wright, Colm Feore, Joanna Gleason, Mary Walsh, Clé Bennett

A black-comedy series, based on the British series of the same name, about a baby-boomer woman (Kim Cattrall) and her long-time husband (Don McKellar) who sell their family home and move into a hip downtown condo to begin their lives again.



Still Standing

Production company: Frantic Films
Where to watch: CBC
Location of principal photography: Multiple locations across Canada
Season: 3
Key cast: Jonny Harris

A half-hour comedy series where actor-comedian Jonny Harris visits a beautiful but struggling small town in each episode. He gets to know their story and meets the local characters to inform a hilarious stand-up routine performed for the whole town. *Still Standing* proves that even in tough times, small towns still maintain their charm, resilience – and sense of humour!



This Hour Has 22 Minutes

Production company: DHX Media
Where to watch: CBC
Location of principal photography: Halifax, NS
Season: 24
Key cast: Mark Critch, Cathy Jones, Shaun Majumder, Susan Kent

A long-running mock news program featuring satirical sketches of weekly news, comedy acts, editorials, humorous interviews with leading figures, and parody commercials.



Tiny Plastic Men

Production company: Mosaic Entertainment
Where to watch: Super Channel
Location of principal photography: Edmonton, AB
Season: 4
Key cast: Chris Craddock, Matt Alden, Mark Meer

In this sitcom/sketch comedy, Chris Craddock, Matt Alden and Mark Meer test toys for the Gottfried Brothers Toy and Train Company. They check for quality, danger and defects in a basement office that looks more like a nerdy frat house, and must deal with oddball coworkers and their own imaginations.



Trailer Park Boys

Production companies: Sunnyvale Productions, Swearnet Pictures
Where to watch: Netflix
Location of principal photography: Halifax, NS
Season: 11
Key cast: John Paul Tremblay, Robb Wells, Mike Smith, John Dunsworth, Patrick Roach, Sarah E. Dunsworth, Cory Bowles, Michael Jackson, Barrie Dunn

A mockumentary series about the misadventures of three rowdy Nova Scotian trailer-park man-children whose get-rich-quick schemes never fail to lead them into trouble with a bevy of zany locals.



What Would Sal Do?

Production companies: New Metric Media, DHX Media
Where to watch: (TBD)
Location of principal photography: Sudbury, ON
Season: 1
Key cast: Dylan Taylor, Jennifer Dale, Ryan McDonald, Scott Thompson

What Would Sal Do? is an eight-episode half-hour comedy about an entitled asshole trying to change his life after his mother tells him that he’s the Second Coming of Jesus.



You Me Her

Production company: Entertainment One
Where to watch: HBO Canada
Location of principal photography: Vancouver, BC
Season: 1
Key cast: Greg Poehler, Rachel Blanchard, Priscilla Faia

Inspired by the *Playboy* article “Sugar on Top” by John H. Richardson, *You Me Her* is a “polyromantic” comedy that infuses the grounded and relatable sensibilities of an indie rom-com with a distinctive twist. The series centres on a three-way relationship involving a suburban married couple and Izzy, a grad student moonlighting as an escort.

Workin’ Moms

Production company: Wolf & Rabbit Entertainment ULC
Where to watch: CBC
Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON
Key cast: Catherine Reitman, Dani Kind, Juno Rinaldi, Jessalyn Wanlim

A comedy about four women who struggle to balance work, life and child-rearing. The creator, Catherine Reitman, sister of four-time Oscar nominee Jason Reitman and daughter of Canadian movie mogul Ivan Reitman, hopes the show serves “as a comedic battle cry for women experiencing change everywhere.”

Changing the Channel for Women in Production

"Often we see filmmakers given opportunities because people in senior positions see themselves reflected in the emerging talent they're supporting. For a young, white, male director, this is the story we hear all the time. A producer or network 'took a chance' on them because they're so 'relatable.' The more gender parity we see represented at the top, the more diversity we will see in hiring creatives."



Nimisha Mukerji
Producer, Director,
Shotglass Productions

"Shakespeare said, 'Art is a mirror held up to nature,' yet we have created a system in Canada where only half the population is reflected; where the majority of stories told on screen are written by, directed by and star white males. Women, and especially diverse women, are not reflected in our mirror. Whether it's the threat of quotas — as occurred in Sweden — or actually putting them in place, it is our responsibility to our citizens, our audiences and our storytellers to reflect the diversity that is Canada."



Lauren Grant
Producer, Clique Pictures

Let's start with an uncomfortable fact: according to the *Women in View on Screen* study released last year, of the CMF-funded, live-action English TV series produced in Canada over the previous 12 months, women made up just 14 of the 84 directors hired. Furthermore, these women directed just 11 per cent of the episodes produced. There are plenty more stats that speak to the issue of gender disparity in the production industry, but Marguerite Pigott is done with numbers. Mostly.

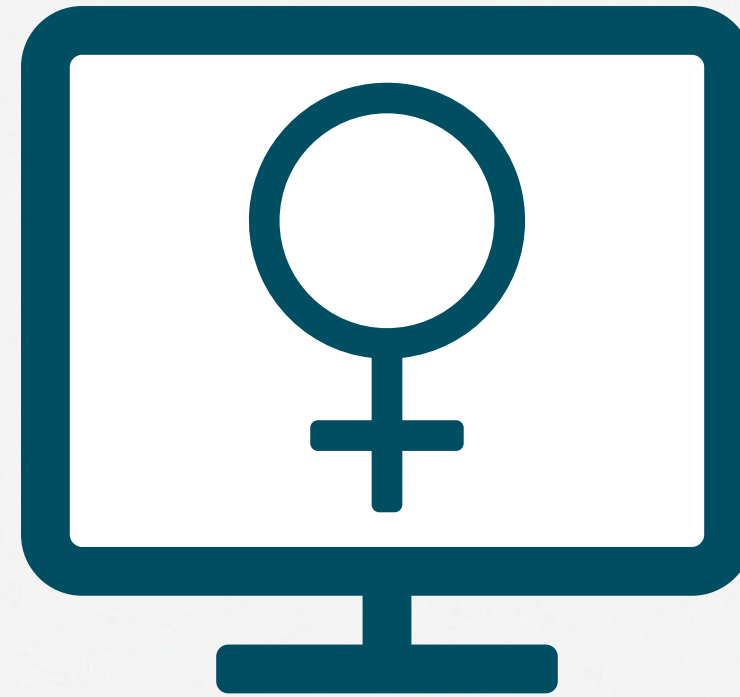
"At a certain point — and I think we've reached this point — we have to say 'This isn't good enough anymore,'" says Pigott, Vice President, Outreach and Strategic Initiatives, CMPA. "It is not okay for one type of person to dominate something as important as media in a society as diverse as ours."

To try and get a handle on the situation, the CMPA is kicking off a global study, conducted by the team at Duopoly, to explore best practices from international players to identify programs, policies and regulations that actually work. The goal, Pigott says, is to move the needle and get women into influential roles in media both creatively and on the business side.

"It's not okay for one type of person to dominate something as important as media in a society as diverse as ours."

— Marguerite Pigott

Through interviews with key stakeholders and women in senior roles in the industry, a literature review and general surveys, the study will also explore barriers to success and potential solutions for all women. It's expected to be completed in time for release at the CMPA's 2017 Prime Time in Ottawa conference. With it, Pigott hopes to have the data needed so those in the film and television sector can start to usher in real change.



"The study isn't trying to make a case that this is something we have to address. That case has already been made. We're collecting data to help those in the industry understand the best way forward."

— Marguerite Pigott

"Yes, it's about employment opportunity, but it's also about how our audiences see women on screen," she says. "When you change who is telling the story, you change the story."

For example, one study out of the Geena Davis Institute found that when women direct films, females end up making up 42 per cent of characters, a 10 per cent bump from male-directed features, which inevitably changes the tone of the story. Women also tend to hire more women to make up off-screen roles as well.

"The study isn't trying to make a case that this is something we have to address," Pigott says. "That case has already been made. We're collecting data to help those in the industry understand the best way forward."

The study is funded by the Ontario Media Development Corporation, Canadian Media Producers Association, Telefilm Canada, the Canada Media Fund, Royal Bank of Canada, Creative BC, National Film Board and La Société de développement des entreprises culturelles du Québec (SODEC). 🍀



Jennifer Podemski
Actor, Producer, Director

"There is an Indigenous prophecy that says: the women will lead the way in the healing of the planet. If this is true — and I believe our children's future depends on it — then as storytellers and content creators we must strive to strengthen and expand female narratives across all platforms and genres. This means more women in the writers' room, the director's chair and in senior executive roles."



Patrick Roy
President, North America,
Entertainment One Films
& Les Films Séville

"I find it difficult to accept that in 2016 we are struggling to have an equal number of women directing movies. Obviously, the creator's gender is not a criterion we use to determine if we will invest in a project, but our industry would be much stronger if more women played creative roles in our movies. To achieve this, education is key. This is where we need to take action. And it will only be for the betterment of our industry."



Heather Conway
Executive Vice-President,
English Services, CBC

"Proactively making the decision to hire women as directors and for other senior production roles would clearly benefit us all and, most importantly, better reflect our audiences. And there are no barriers to that."

Engaging Children (and Parents)

A Q&A with Entertainment One’s Jillianne Reinseth

Creating shows that connect with children isn’t easy. But those that crack the code can find a fiercely dedicated fan base and global export opportunities. Entertainment One (eOne) is the driving force behind some of the world’s most popular children’s shows, including *Peppa Pig*



and the recent breakout hit *PJ Masks*. Jillianne Reinseth, Vice President of Creative Affairs at Entertainment One Family, shares the secret to developing characters that find their way into children’s hearts.

What is the secret in creating a character that resonates with children?

The secret is to tap into familiar archetypes and emotions that children understand.

Kids have a specific idea of right and wrong, so having lead characters represent “good” is important. Take *PJ Masks*, for instance: our series’ characters are heroes – that’s not to say they’re not without flaws – but they represent heroic attributes our kids want to emulate.

What’s the process in creating characters that resonate globally?

We’ve found our 3D shows travel incredibly well, whereas live-action and puppets tend to be more localized. Before we go out to market, we get the opinions of our international teams, asking what we could do to improve the show when targeting certain markets. For example, we have found that in some markets, anthropomorphized animals or vehicles resonate better than human characters. If a human character looks specific to a certain region, it may not get any traction in other territories for not reflecting the local culture.

How does merchandising and licensing factor into the creation process?

It depends on what we’re trying to achieve. There are some series that don’t seem to have obvious licensing opportunities at the start. Comedy series’ licensing programs are mostly triggered by the audience’s emotional response to the characters.

But for series with a clear play pattern, the licensing component is considered from day one.

For example, our licensing team was engaged from the onset of show creation on our series *PJ Masks*. They give us notes on our characters, highlighting items from the show that we may want to accentuate for the toy market. We launched in October 2015, and in the first week we had parents online asking where they could get the Halloween costumes of the characters. You rarely have parents reaching out asking, “How quickly will you have merchandise in market?” When we saw homemade costumes showing up on social media within weeks of the show’s launch, that’s when we knew we had a hit. 🍀

Canadian TV • Children & Youth



Annedroids

Production company: Sinking Ship Entertainment

Where to watch: TVOKids, Knowledge Network, SRC

Location of principal photography: Mississauga, ON

Season: 4

Key cast: Addison Holley, Jadiel Dowlin, Adrianna Di Liello, Millie Davis, Raven Dauda, Geena Davis

Annedroids is a CGI/live-action educational TV program that follows 11-year old scientist Anne; her human pals; and her four creations and partners in crime – Pal, Eyes, Hand and Fangs – through a series of scientific adventures.



Arthur

Production companies: Oasis Animation, WGBH-TV (US)

Where to watch: CBC

Season: 21

A children’s classic. *Arthur*, which is based on the book series of the same name by Marc Brown, first aired in 1996, and kids still love it today. Eight-year-old Arthur, the kind-hearted, anthropomorphic aardvark lives in the fictional Elwood City, and attends school at Lakewood Elementary. He and his rascally little sister, D.W., learn about family and friendship, and have a lot of fun along the way.



Backstage

Production company: Fresh TV

Where to watch: Family Channel

Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON

Season: 2

Key cast: Devyn Nekoda, Alyssa Trask, Aviva Mongillo, Josh Bogert, Colin Petierre, Julia Tomasone, Matthew Isen, Kyal Legend, McKenzie Small, Romy Weltman, Adrianna Di Liello, Thomas L. Collard, Joshua Kilimnik, Stephanie La Rochelle, Sydney Kuhne, Robert Bazzocchi, Cartoon Moore, Hailey Fauchere

Following a group of elite teen performers at Keaton School of the Arts, the second season is filming in Toronto and will bring 30 new half-hour episodes of the drama, which airs internationally. The sophomore season will introduce a variety of new characters to each of the arts streams, with seven talented young actors joining the cast.



Bookaboo

Production companies: Sinking Ship Entertainment, Happy Films
Where to watch: CBC
Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON
Season: 4

Bookaboo is a rock-star puppy drummer, who can’t go on stage without sharing a story. Luckily, each episode a celebrity fan stops by his tour bus and reads him a beautifully animated children’s story. The show also features comedy sketches and songs.



Camp Lakebottom

Production company: 9 Story Media Group
Where to watch: Teletoon
Season: 3

Twelve-year-old prankster McGee was headed for an awesome summer at Camp Sunny Smiles when his bus took a wrong turn and landed him at old, rundown and ridiculously spooky Camp Lakebottom! McGee soon discovers, though, that Lakebottom is not just your average camp; it’s the BEST CAMP EVER!



The Cat in the Hat Knows a Lot About That!

Production companies: Portfolio Entertainment, Collingwood O’Hare Entertainment (UK)
Where to watch: Treehouse
Season: 2

Based on the classic Dr. Seuss book, this adaptation follows the adventures of Nick and Sally, as they join the Cat in the Hat in his many adventures aboard the “thinga-ma-jigger.”



Chirp

Production company: Sinking Ship Entertainment
Where to watch: CBC, SRC
Season: 1

Chirp, Squawk and Tweet are three best bird friends who come up with all sorts of ingenious ways to go on imaginary adventures. Chirp, the most daring one of the three, sometimes leads Squawk and Tweet into trouble, but they always find a way out. Based on the children’s magazine of the same name, *Chirp* is a loving look at the power of imagination and play.



Daniel Tiger’s Neighbourhood

Production company: 9 Story Media Group
Where to watch: CBC
Season: 3

An animated preschool series featuring Daniel, a shy but brave four-year-old tiger who lives in the Neighbourhood of Make Believe. With help from his neighbours, family and friends – O the Owl, Prince Wednesday, Katerina Kittycat and Miss Elaina – Daniel has fun while learning the key skills necessary for school and life.



The Deep

Production companies: DHX Media, A Stark Production (Australia)
Where to watch: Family CHRGD
Season: 1

Based on the graphic novels of the same name by Tom Taylor and James Brouwer, *The Deep* follows a daring family of underwater adventurers, the Nektons, as they explore the mysterious depths of unexplored seas in their state-of-the-art submarine, The Aronnax.



Degrassi: Next Class

Production companies: Epitome Pictures, a division of DHX Media
Where to watch: Family Channel
Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON
Season: 2
Key cast: Amanda Arcuri, Reiya Downs, Ana Golja, Nikki Gould, Ricardo Hoyos, Ehren Kassam, Andre Kim, Lyle Lettau, Spencer Macpherson, Eric Osborne, Olivia Scriven, Sara Waisglass, Richard Walters

The *Degrassi* franchise’s latest series centres on a new, technologically savvy cohort of post-millennial teens who navigate the complexities of high-school life and struggle with problems both timeless and unique to Generation Y.

Dr. Dimensionpants

Production companies: DHX Media, The Factory Backwards Entertainment
Where to watch: Teletoon
Season: 2

Thanks to a pair of “Dimensionpants,” Kyle Lipton, formerly a regular kid, is now a superhero called Dr. Dimensionpants. Whenever Kyle puts on the special pants, he gains all the superpowers he wants, plus many responsibilities. Kyle and his unicorn, Philip, travel through multiple dimensions to stop crooks and bad guys, while dealing with the usual troubles that come with growing up.



Doki

Production company: Portfolio Entertainment
Where to watch: Knowledge Network, TVOKids
Season: 2

Join Doki and his friends of the Worldwide Expedition Club. Their mission: to explore the world, use their imagination, discover new things and make friends.



Freaktown

Production companies: Portfolio Entertainment
Where to watch: Teletoon
Season: 1

Ben Bones, an undead skeleton with a soul, along with his mutant friends Lenny and Priscilla, must protect their freaky town from the spoiled brat Princess Boo Boo, ruler of Sweetlandia.



Gaming Show (In My Parents’ Garage)

Production company: B Minors
Where to watch: Family Channel, Family CHRGD
Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON
Season: 3
Key cast: Jesse Sukunda, Ian Duchene, Julia Schwartz

A semi-scripted comedy series that follows a trio of quirky young teens as they aspire to create a popular and inventive YouTube channel devoted to gaming, featuring game reviews, let’s plays, interviews and celebrity visits.



Hi Opie!

Production company: marblemedia
Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON
Where to watch: TVOKids, Knowledge Network, City Saskatchewan
Season: 2
Key cast: Jordan Lockhart, Amber Mills, Paul Barnes

Opie, a five-year-old puppet, is the new kid in kindergarten. Follow him as he discovers the world and makes new friends.



Inspector Gadget

Production company: DHX Media
Where to watch: Teletoon
Season: 2

The dim-witted cyborg police inspector, Inspector Gadget, tries to solve crimes and uncover Dr. Claw, Gadget’s nemesis, who leads the evil organization called “M.A.D.” Gadget is clumsy and clueless, but with the secret help of his niece, Penny, and dog, Brain, he always manages to solve the case.



Justin Time

Production company: Guru Studio
Where to watch: Family Jr.
Season: 3

Looking for adventure? Then come along as Justin and his imaginary pals Olive and Squidgy star in the biggest stories of all time, told from every corner of the world!

Kate & Mim-Mim

Production company: DHX Media
Where to watch: Family Jr.
Season: 2

Kate and her stuffed animal friends use their imaginations to go on all kinds of awesome adventures.



Little Charmers

Production companies: Atomic Cartoons, Spin Master Studios
Where to watch: Treehouse
Season: 1

In Charmville, a magical land, a young Charmer named Hazel and her two best friends, Lavender and Posie, learn to practise magic and grow accustomed to their special powers. Though Hazel knows that she should only use her magic when it’s needed, she can’t help but use it to help people and fix things and have fun. Sometimes, though, her zeal for magic leads to a mess, and Lavender and Posie must help Hazel clean it up.



Look Kool

Production companies: Apartment 11 Productions, 9 Story Media Group

Where to watch: TVOKids

Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON

Season: 2

Key cast: Hamza Haq (host)

Look Kool uses songs, skits and wacky challenges to help our host, Hamza, and his mischievous robot cat find the answers to mathematical mysteries. In every episode, Hamza is helped by real kids who hunt for shapes, do hands-on experiments and solve brain-bending puzzles. Who knew math could be so much fun?



Lost & Found Music Studios

Production company: Temple Street Productions,
a division of Boat Rocker Studios

Where to watch: Family Channel

Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON

Season: 1

Key cast: Keara Graves, Shane Harte, Alex Zaichkowski, Sarah Carmosino, Levi Randall, Deshaun Clarke, Ella Jonas Farlinger, Maranda Thomas, Alyssa Baker, Rakim Kelly, Olivia Solo, Jeni Ross, Katrina Hachey, Matthew Bacik, Michael Torontow, Ali Milner

Lost & Found Music Studios is music-based series. It revolves around a group of aspiring teen musicians who join an elite after-school music program. Through auditions, only a few are selected every year to go on a live tour. The show will showcase young new talent and music ranging from pop to rock and hip hop to R&B.



Make It Pop

Production company: DHX Media

Where to watch: YTV

Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON

Season: 2

Key cast: Megan Lee, Louriza Tronco, Erika Tham, Dale Whibley

Make It Pop follows the adventure of three boarding-school roommates – Sun-Hi Song, Jodi Mappa and Corki Chang – who, along with their deejay friend, form a K-pop group. The trio also performs at live events across Canada and have released seven albums to date.



Max & Shred

Production company: Breakthrough Entertainment

Where to watch: YTV

Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON

Season: 2

Key cast: Jonny Gray, Jake Goodman, Saara Chaudry, Emilia McCarthy, Jean-Michel Le Gal, Siobhan Murphy

Celebrity snowboarder Max Asher forms an unlikely friendship with a science wunderkind named Alvin (also known as “Shred”) when he moves to Colorado to train for the Winter Cup.



The Moblees

Production companies: Boulevard Productions, Shaftesbury Films

Where to watch: CBC

Location of principal photography: Halifax, NS

Season: 2

Key cast: Shannon Hamilton, Scott Farley, Chris George, Michelle Bouey, Matt Nethersole

Set in the fictional world of Terra Mova, *The Moblees* is a multi-platform “Movement Movement” – a kind of workout series for kids. With catchy music, much action, imaginative sets and charismatic characters, the Moblees invite kids to join in on the action, teaching them about fitness, exercise, and strategies for avoiding childhood obesity and other health problems. The show teaches kids how to do ordinary things in extraordinary ways with movement.



The Mystery Files

Production company: Apartment 11 Productions

Where to watch: TVOKids

Season: 1

Key cast: Felicia Shulman, Ethan Burnett, Kyla Madeira

Join Kyla, E.B. and Aunt Tilly as they solve the Mystery Files, inherited by their Great Aunt Hermione, connecting clues that reveal surprising facts about the past and how it relates to who we are and how we live now.



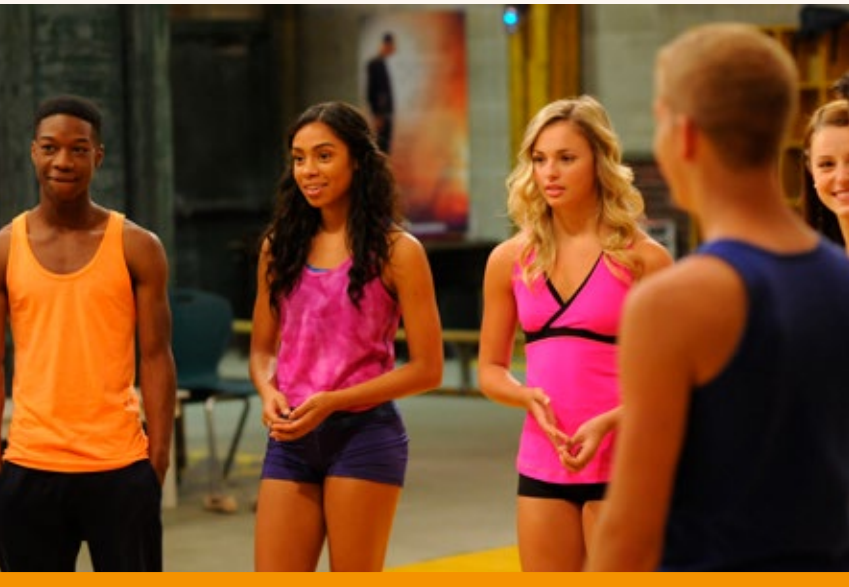
Nerds and Monsters

Production company: 9 Story Media Group

Where to watch: YTV

Season: 2

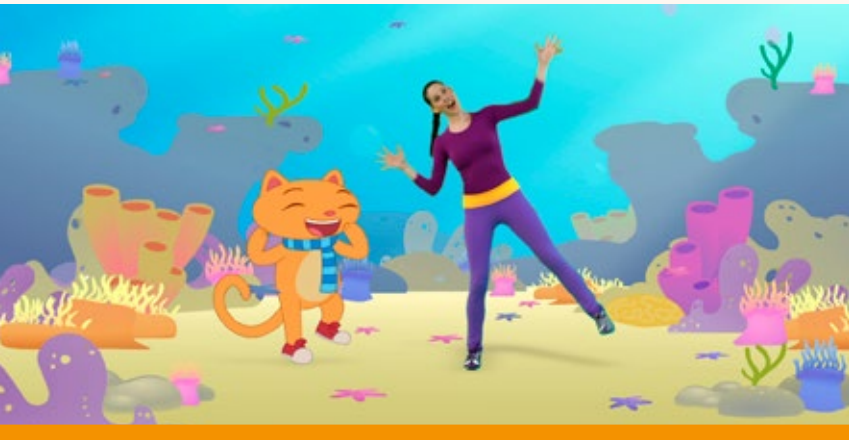
Nerds and Monsters tosses three nerdy kids and a thick-headed football star on a fantastic uncharted island. The castaways must use nothing but their smarts to survive the relentless attacks by the island’s inhabitants – a tribe of hideous but hilarious monsters. And, lucky for the nerds, these dim-witted monsters don’t have any smarts!



The Next Step

Production company: Temple Street Productions, a division of Boat Rocker Studios
Where to watch: Family Channel
Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON
Season: 5
Key cast: Trevor Tjordman, Brittany Raymond, Victoria Baldesarra, Logan Fabbro, Devon Brown, Cierra Healey, Jordan Clark, Samantha Grecchi

The Next Step follows the lives of an elite group of young dancers who train at The Next Step Studio. After winning internationals, The Next Step is considered one of the best dance studios in the world, but some members of the team are wondering if they’ve reached their full potential or if there’s still room for them to shine.



Nico Can Dance!

Production company: Atomic Cartoons
Where to watch: Knowledge Network
Season: 1
Nico Can Dance! is a show designed to get kids active and moving. In each two-minute episode, Rachel, a real-life professional dancer, and her animated sidekick, Nico, a big talking cat, use their imaginations to create wonderful worlds where they’re free to dance and move as creatively as they can.



Numb Chucks

Production company: 9 Story Media Group
Where to watch: YTV
Season: 2
Two half-witted woodchuck vigilantes, Dilweed and Fungus, use their non-existent kung-fu skills to protect the lives of all the citizens in Ding-A-Ling Springs, whether they need it or not! Get ready, Ding-A-Ling Springs, you’re about to be Numb Chucked!



Odd Squad

Production company: Sinking Ship Entertainment
Where to watch: TVOKids, SRC
Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON
Season: 2
Key cast: Dalila Bela, Filip Geljo, Millie Davis, Sean Michael Kyer
In the live-action comedy series *Odd Squad*, agents Olympia and Otis are members of an agency that uses math to investigate and solve strange happenings in their town.



PAW Patrol

Production companies: Guru Studio, Spin Master Entertainment
Where to watch: TVOKids
Season: 4
The heroic group of six rescue dogs, known as the PAW Patrol, believe that “no job is too big, no pup is too small.” The six little pups work together to protect their community and help those in need. Each dog has a special skill, gadget and vehicle.



Peg + Cat

Production company: 9 Story Media Group
Where to watch: Treehouse
Season: 2
Follow Peg and her sidekick, Cat, as they embark on adventures while learning basic math concepts and skills. Their adventures take them to historical faraway lands, art centres in bustling metropolises and the colourful cosmos, all the while demonstrating that it’s never too early to start learning the magic of numbers.



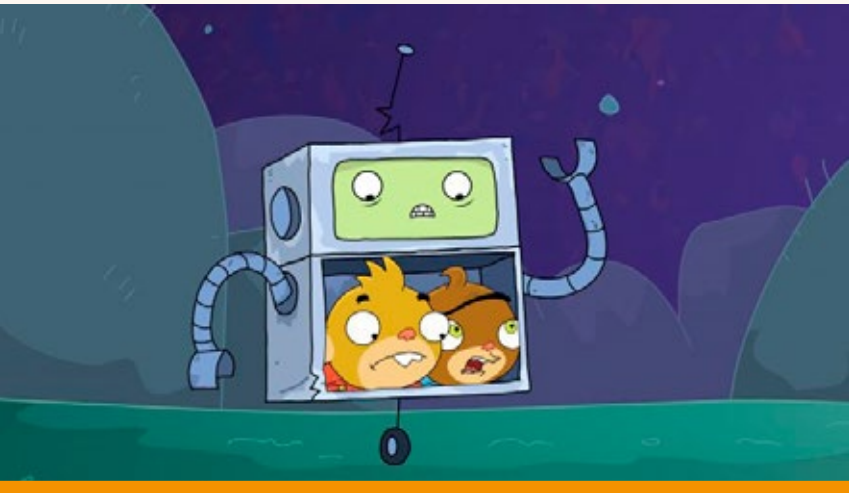
PJ Masks

Production companies: Entertainment One, Frog Box (France)
Where to watch: Family Jr.
Season: 2
Regular six-year-olds by day, masked superheroes by night: *PJ Masks* centres on the midnight adventures of three preschoolers who activate bracelets connected to their pajamas that transform them into superheroes, each with their own superpower. The show is based on the *Les Pyjamasques* book series by French author Romuald Racioppo.



Playdate

Production company: Sinking Ship Entertainment
Where to watch: Family Jr.
Season: 1
What happens to stuffed animals when you leave them alone? *Playdate*, a mix of skilled puppeteering and live action, is a series about the unexpected adventures that Mac the mouse and his stuffed animal friends, Sammy, Priscilla and Buckie, go on when they’re left alone in the playroom.



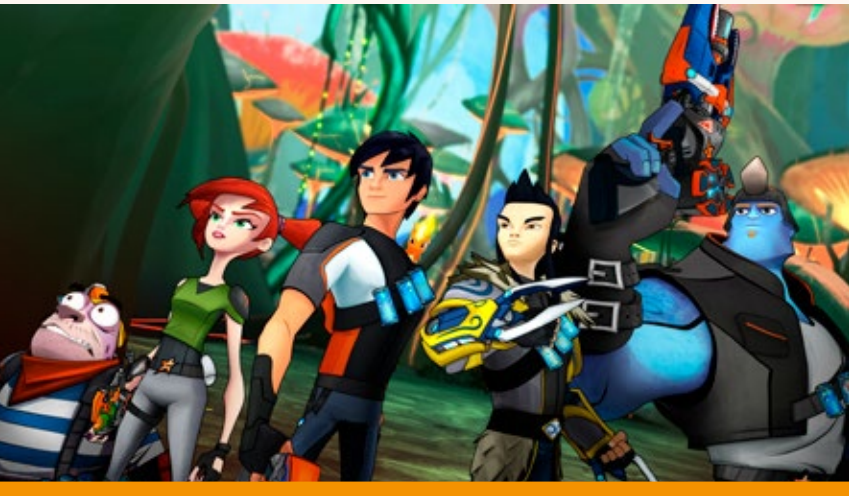
Rocket Monkeys

Production companies: Breakthrough Entertainment, Atomic Cartoons

Where to watch: Teletoon

Season: 3

Brothers Gus and Wally are monkey astronauts who must save the universe from a barrage of mean-spirited aliens, criminal masterminds and the mysterious workings of evil dimensions. With the help of YAY-OK, their sidekick robot, the monkeys go on all sorts of adventures. The reward? Bananas.



Slugterra

Production company: DHX Media

Where to watch: Family CHRGD

Season: 4

Fifteen-year-old Eli Shane is determined to take up his father’s legacy and become the greatest slug-slinging hero in Slugterra. To do this, he must collect, train and battle his friends with special slugs that morph into powerful creatures. His enemy, Dr. Blakk, wants to gain power by transforming the slugs into obedient weapons. Eli, his friends and his famous slug, Burpy, seek to bring Dr. Blakk down.



The Stanley Dynamic

Production company: Amaze Film + Television

Where to watch: YTV

Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON

Season: 2

Key cast: Charles Vandervaart, Kate Hewlett, Michael Barbuto, Taylor Abrahamse, Madison Ferguson, Michael Gross, Bill Turnbull, Josette Jorge

The Stanley Dynamic is a family comedy with a major twist – one of their twin sons is animated!



Super Why!

Production company: DHX Media

Where to watch: CBC

Season: 3

Books come to life in this series about four fairy-tale friends, living in Storybook Village, who go on magical adventures to become reading-powered superheroes. The show encourages preschoolers not only to develop a thirst for reading, but also to read critically.

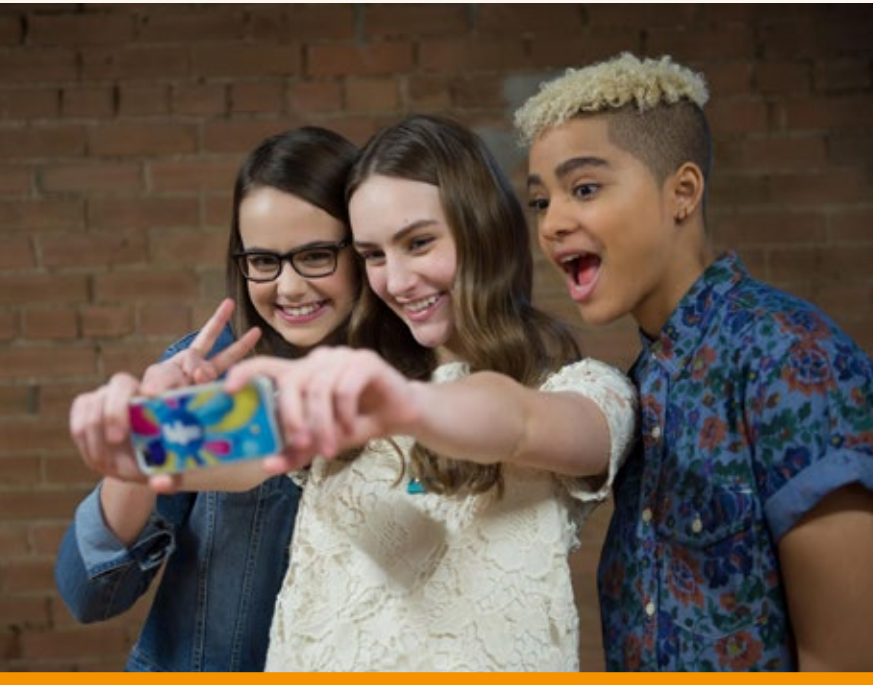
Supernoobs

Production company: DHX Media

Where to watch: Teletoon

Season: 1

Supernoobs is a show about four friends living in the town of Cornbury who one day develop magical powers thanks to alien orbs called “Battle Balls.” They use these powers to fight evil viruses, while learning how to go about life as middle schoolers.



We Are Savvy

Production company: B Minors

Where to watch: Family Channel

Location of principal photography: Toronto, ON

Season: 1

Key cast: Spencer Barbosa, Tehya Silbermann, Sarah Webber

Starring three very different friends who each have their own fashion and cultural tastes, *We Are Savvy* is a unique magazine-style show that tackles all things internet and entertainment: fashion, music, DIY, celebs and more!



Wild Kratts

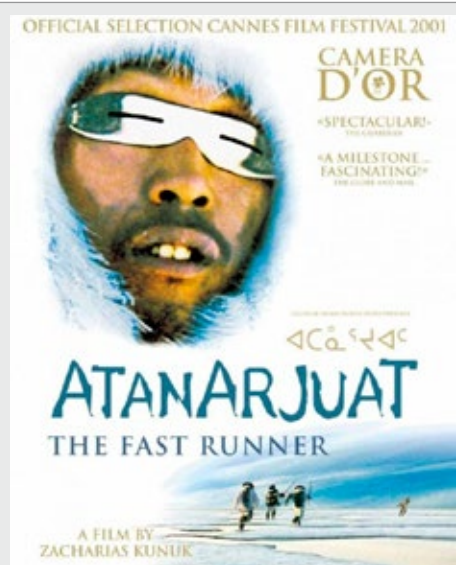
Production company: 9 Story Media Group

Where to watch: TVOKids, Knowledge Network

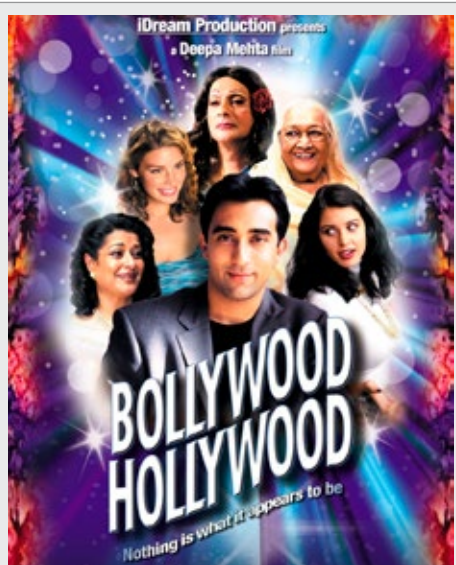
Season: 4

The Kratt brothers leap into animated action in *Wild Kratts*! In each episode, Chris and Martin Kratt travel to a different corner of the world to meet amazing new animals. Join the Kratts for a laugh-out-loud comedy adventure, as Martin and Chris activate their Creature Power Suits to rescue their animal friends!

Which Canadian Film Are You? QUIZ



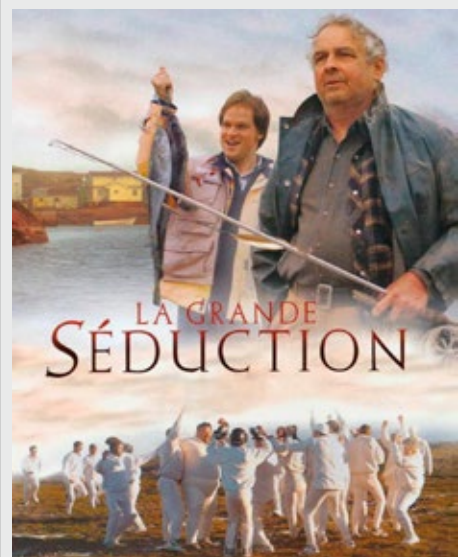
- ☐ You really love winter.
- ☐ You're not a big salad eater.
- ☐ You don't do well with sharing.



- ☐ Random dance parties and musical numbers are your thing!
- ☐ You're ready for love. Again.
- ☐ You're the fun one in the family.



- ☐ You have some daddy issues... or mommy issues... or both.
- ☐ You have no desire to ever tattoo your body.
- ☐ You envy only children.



- ☐ You would make an excellent politician.
- ☐ You believed that "gullible" wasn't in the dictionary.
- ☐ Love means lying, bribing and conniving.



- ☐ You've been married for far too long. (This is meant to be a tear-jerker.)
- ☐ Turtlenecks and chunky sweaters are your idea of a sexy outfit.
- ☐ You're looking forward to dinner at 5 p.m.



- ☐ You put vinegar on your poutine.
- ☐ You're a wonderful/awful driver.
- ☐ You're just as comfortable in a leather jacket as you are in a suit and tie.



- ☐ You could probably use a haircut. And some new clothes.
- ☐ You're a workaholic, valuing it above and beyond even your own health.
- ☐ You've got nothing to hide; you're an open book.



- ☐ You're a proponent of simple, frugal living.
- ☐ You don't do well with change.
- ☐ Your mom is your best friend.



- ☐ You're in no hurry to settle down.
- ☐ Your grandparents and Thomas Ulsrud are your style icons.
- ☐ You're a gym rat. Always working on that dad bod.



- ☐ You're a flight-not-fight kind of person.
- ☐ You're a dreamer. Why else do you keep rolling up that rim?
- ☐ Gord Downie is your go-to for relationship advice. You'd trust that man with your life.

None of the above? Weirdo. Must be a Cronenberg!



- ☐ You're a connoisseur of cheeses.
- ☐ You're a terrible lip reader.
- ☐ You're lactose intolerant.



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