

DOC BC Chair report – AGM November 2008

The BC Chapter has enjoyed a really successful year. We have had a hard-working dedicated board this year, who brought us many successful initiatives and professional development events.

We sadly bid farewell to a few of our board members; Leigh Badgely, who led our sponsorship committee very successfully and garnered many new supporters of our organization. Her tenacity and hard work has been hugely appreciated and we are sad to see her go. Linda Desormeaux, who has been on our board for several years and has contributed to our communications committee in all that time, helped to launch our website and initiated many communications to our members. Her assistance with the VIFF party this year, and many events in the past has also benefited us greatly and we will miss her, and wish her luck in her travels. Kerrie Beattie, who only recently joined our board, will continue her commitment to our great Doc Shadows initiative, and we thank her for her time on our board.

We look forward to our fifth DocTalk next month, an event that provides a two-day industry market that we produce in collaboration with the Whistler Film Festival. The event includes a half-day pitch forum called Pitch Fest West where 10 teams will pitch their documentary projects to a panel of broadcasters and distributors. The moderated forum saw great audience observer attendance and great feedback and interest in the projects pitched. We will be holding our event with Whistler again in December 2008, and if anyone is interested in attending, please check out our website at www.docbc.org.

We are excited to add to the already popular Pitch Fest West an Audience Award, which will give the most popular pitch a pass to the following year's festival and accommodation, and an NFB Development Award worth \$2,000 that will be offered to the director of a selected pitch. Thank you to Tracey Friesen at the NFB for this great prize.

Our professional development committee hosted several well attended events already this year, including appearances by Elizabeth Klink, Robin Jackson and Bill Nemin. Other events saw a collaboration with the DOXA film festival, a Master Class with Jennifer Baichwal, a panel discussion on New Media and short docs, and a High Def workshop with Panasonic Canada.

We have also continued with two new initiatives, Doc Screens, and Doc Shadows. Doc Screens has hosted a few evenings of films at the beautiful Vancouver Film Centre, where we showed our members films to other members of DOC and the public. The first event featured "Luna, Spirit of a Whale" along with two short films. We also screened "Carts of Darkness" to a sold-out house and other screenings were well attended. We hope to see this event continue and to see our members benefit from enjoying each other's work and providing great feedback to filmmakers as well.

Doc Shadows has seen an outreach to some of the local film schools and we began this initiative with students from the Capilano College who will be mentored by industry professionals in one or two sessions, either on set where student can "shadow" a director, producer, or cinematographer, or as a one-to-one discussion with various professionals.



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We also hosted a great celebration of the 25th anniversary of Doc at the Vancouver International Film Festival – we partnered with POV Magazine on the event and had a great inspiring address by Rudy Buttignol from Knowledge Network about the current marketplace and state of documentary filmmaking. We awarded Rudy, a founding member of our organization, a lifetime honorary membership.

We look forward to this coming year with great new energy and enthusiasm and a commitment to continuing to serve our members best through initiatives surrounding advocacy, professional development and communication. Our board is happy to welcome the following new members, accepted by acclamation because of the number of departing board members:

Brishkay Ahmed
Michael Dayan
Vanessa Warheit
Adelina Suvagau
Les Lukacs

We look forward to adding their great talents, experience and energy to our board!

Leah Mallen
Co-Chair
Doc BC

*The voice of the independent filmmaker
La voix du cinéaste indépendant*