

BC Chapter



DOCUMENTARY
ORGANIZATION OF CANADA
DOCUMENTARISTES
DU CANADA

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
8 December 2015

Rainier Provisions
2 West Cordova, Vancouver

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
8 December 2015

Rainier Provisions
2 West Cordova, Vancouver

No.	ITEM	TIME
1	Call to Order	1 min
2	Adoption of the Agenda	2 min
3	Report from the Co-Chairs	5 min
4	Report from the Treasurer	5 min
5	Committee Reports	
	- National Representative	5 min
	- Membership	5 min
	- Communications	5 min
	- Sponsorship	5 min
	- Professional Development	5 min
6	Incoming and Returning Board Members	10 min
7	Adjournment	1 min

BOARD REPORTS

CO-CHAIR REPORT

By Julia Ivanova and David Vaisbord

DOC BC engaged with our membership in 2015 through various platforms and events. Orchestrating all of the communications was our Communications Administrator, Milena Salazar who has been doing a fantastic job.

The weekly DOC BC News includes news about the local, national and international film community, as well as reminders on key deadlines for festival, funding opportunities and events. We also use this medium to communicate messages from DOC National like upcoming webinars, advocacy work or special announcements. Our mailing lists and social media platforms have grown in numbers in the last year - a great indications that there's a continued or increased interest in the work that we are doing to support the documentary film community in BC.

For their part, DOC board members forwarded and retweeted all communications from DOC BC, and we hope that DOC BC members on their own initiative did the same. Perhaps we should find a way of encouraging them to do more of it.

In 2015, DOC BC made an effort to always stay on top of what's happening with our member's work. Through the DOC BC mailing lists and social media, we helped raise awareness about member's new projects, crowdfunding campaigns, competitions they're taking part in or screenings, to name a few.

Member Highlights

During DOXA and VIFF we helped promote the screenings of members Charles Wilkinson and Kevin Eastwood (*Haida Gwaii on the Edge of the World - Best Canadian Feature Documentary Award at Hot Docs*), Fiona Rayher, Jocelyn Chaput and Daniel Conrad (*Fractured Land, Best BC Film at VIFF*), Elizabeth Yake (*Hadwin's Judgement*), Carmen Pollard, Selwyn Jacob and Shirley Vercruysse (*Ninth Floor*), Jordan Paterson (*Tricks on the Dead*) and shorts by John Bolton, Sandra Ignani and Tyler Hagan, to name a few.

We also helped promote crowdfunding campaigns by Zack Embree (*Directly Affected*) and Jeff Petry and Nathan Drillot (*Wizard Mode*), both which turned out to exceed their initial goal.

At our Film & Media Showcases we screened works by Gary Marcuse, Chris and Melissa Bruntlett, Sonia Suvagau, Rami Katz and Madeleine Grant.

DOC National also decided to profile our members Malek Shafi'i and Charles Wilkinson in their monthly DOC Member Spotlight.

Other highlights include our members Rami Katz and Sandra Ignani being selected to participate in RIDM's Talent Lab, Joella Cabalu for the Hot Docs Shaw Media Diverse Voices training program and Josephine Anderson for the NFB/CFC Creative Doc Lab.

2015 was a great year, and we look forward to 2016.

David and Julia

FINANCE REPORT

By Parm Gill and Javin Chouhan, The Accounting Office

I am excited to have the opportunity to work with DOC BC for the foreseeable future. I came on board late last year and I am looking forward to being part of the team.

Based on the financial data, it is evident that there are challenges and opportunities ahead of us. One of our larger main events was in collaboration with Creative BC and DOXA Documentary Film Festival for a workshop with world-renowned director Steve James. Overall, the event was a success.

In terms of expenses, the outlook is similar to last year; most of our major costs continue to be related to workshop fees and our member meetings.

Many of our sponsors have returned this year with some major acquisitions such as Telus StoryHive. I hope that we will continue working with all of our sponsors next year, as well as build new partnerships.

Lastly, I'd like to thank all of the board members for welcoming me and making the transition seamless. I look forward to working with all of you in 2016.

NATIONAL REPORT

By David Vaisbord

Running a national organization such as the Documentary Organization of Canada is a major undertaking. This organization would not exist without the passion of filmmakers such as you, who believe that Canada would not exist without the voices of its documentary filmmakers. To run such an organization

demands, sweat, discipline and coordination, and I salute everyone who freely gives of their time to one of Canada's essential cultural organizations.

In order that DOC maintain its relevance in Canadian cultural and business arenas, there are countless grant applications and meetings with heads of government, corporate and cultural agencies that must be attended to every year. In addition, organizations must undergo periodically self analysis, in order to stay relevant to their membership. **Strengthening Doc**, which took shape through the National board in 2014, was exercised in 2015. The success of the initiative will be the number of changes that have been implemented, and will continue to be implemented in 2016.

Here is an incomplete summary of a year in the life of the DOC National Organization, as I saw it from my home office.

January 2015

The Strengthening Doc Exercise was in full swing, with in-person meetings taking place on the weekend of January 25th.

DOC's book keeper passed away, leaving a major personnel vacancy.

DOC's Executive Director Lisa Fitzgibbons decides to step down.

Pepita Ferrari, current Chair of DOC National is asked to assume the position of Interim Director, to start working with Fitzgibbons to ensure a smooth transition after her departure.

The year begins pessimistically, with a deficit predicted, but by the end of the year there is a complete financial turn around, with a surplus on the books in December 2015.

February 2015

One of the first initiatives of Strengthening Doc, is implemented: chapters reports are solicited for each National Board meeting, and one chapter is highlighted for discussion by all members of the board.

March / April 2015

The Strengthening Doc document is finalized and discussed at all chapter boards and the AGM. To grossly oversimplify:

- Advocacy is confirmed as a core mandate.
- We do better at Communications and Outreach.
- We must streamline operations to bring down costs.
- We must look at better ways of bringing in new members.

For example: At the DOC National table, DOC Alberta reports their strong ties to one particular independent Edmonton cinema, and their "Doc Drinks" nights. Vaisbord at connects with the Rio Cinema later in the year. DOC BC is now building a relationship with the Rio, which we hope will expand in 2016.

May / June / July 2015

Anna Catley works for DOC National for six weeks this summer thanks to the Federal Government Student Summer Employment Program and sets up a YouTube and Vimeo channel for DOC as well as an Instagram account

Advocacy initiatives:

- CRTC – DOC questions their analysis of documentary production in Canada.
- “Dare to Agree” – an industry wide group meeting in Toronto to share info on film industry in Canada
- CMF focus groups and working groups upcoming in September
- Discoverability Summit (CRTC)

By June DOC is \$20,000 ahead of the same time last year. New sponsorship agreements include : Everest Insurance (for the DOC Fête), Big Coat, Media Concierge, Vistek, NFB Images, and Bedtracks. Income due to Sponsorships was up \$8,900. Meanwhile DOC National was reducing accounting costs.

September 2015

Philanthropic Funding for Documentaries in Canada: Towards an Industry-wide Strategy was launched on September 16th at the TIFF Doc Conference. DOC received media coverage on the report in Playback Online, Realscreen, Broadcaster website, CTVM.info (in French), Nationtalk.ca and AFP Blogspot.

Simon Kilmurry, the new Executive Director of the International Documentary Association was the special guest at the launch event for the report. DOC had a lengthy meeting with him to discuss ways DOC and the IDA can be collaborating more in the future. There is a lot to be gained by strengthening this relationship given the common ground and the similar challenges our organizations face.

All of Canada’s DOC Chapter members attend the CMF focus groups across Canada to deliver a series of talking points. Vaisbord attends the Vancouver session for DOC BC.

In other advocacy news, Doc National talks to:

- Telefilms Feature doc fund
- Ontario Cultural Strategy

October / November 2015

Chapter Heads meet in national telephone round-table.

Following recommendations of the Strengthening DOC report, the first Cross Canada Chapter Heads meeting takes place. Everyone involved feels that it was a very good information sharing experience and want to keep it going. Although the participation in DOC events is generally high, all the chapters are feeling the crunch of low volunteer involvement and restricted cash flow. One

recommendation that comes forward is that DOC Concierge be given a cost benefit analysis, as it is a very high-cost initiative. Upwards of \$30 of every membership paid, goes to fund the program. The results of the analysis should be available in 2016.

A *National Roundtable* discussion on documentary and philanthropy is in process for 2016.

Pepita Ferrari is voted by board into new role as Executive Director of DOC.

DOC is \$8000 in the black as we complete the year and head into 2016.

End of National Report for 2015.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Arun Fryer

Membership in DOC BC has increased 20% from last year, with a total of 117 members across the province, reversing a four-year trend of declining numbers. DOC BC accounts for 18% of the entire DOC ORG, which has a total of 648 members across Canada. Approximately 25% of our members live outside of the Lower Mainland. During the last twelve months 38 memberships have expired, including 18 in the month of November.

The Steve James Effect

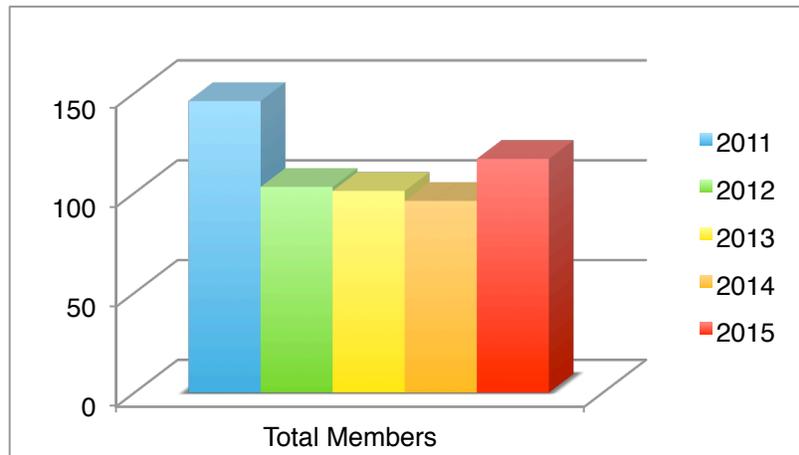
The workshop with Steve James proved to be a tremendous success, leading directly to an increase in interest and memberships to DOC BC. There is clearly a desire to learn from successful documentary filmmakers and should become an annual cornerstone event. If the numbers continue to improve with these types of events, it may be worth hosting two major speakers a year

Another avenue for inclusion would be including member's opinions in choosing the speaker, perhaps through email, doodle poll or social media. We can gauge interest and increase member's input in how we shape the direction of the organization

Recommendations

- Continue to develop partnerships with DOXA, Pull Focus & Cineworks. There is a strong overlap with our mutual members and audience
- Regular in-person introductions to local film schools and film programs, emphasizing the DOC community available to graduating students (and the heavily discounted cost of student membership). Bring pens and other schweg to hand out

- Twitter appears to have a higher level of engagement than Facebook. This could be an indication of where to focus our social media output. Be sure to tag members and their films
- Encourage more sharing of social media posts made through DOC BC, such as RT's & Facebook likes/shares
- Commission a local study to find out what's working/not working for DOC BC members, also targeting expired membership
- Lobby DOC ORG for lower membership costs and/or tiered pricing. Cost is the biggest barrier for new members and returning members
- Ask members for suggestions & feedback re: Professional Development workshops
- Record and share events with those outside of the Lower Mainland
- Host at least one annual event on Victoria
- Update the blog on the DOC BC website. Possibly open it up to members
- Continue with the monthly Doc Talk, emphasizing documentary classics or local productions. The NFB has been very supportive of this initiative and is another partnership worth continuing



Membership up 20% from last year. Current total = 117

25% of members live outside of the Lower Mainland

38 memberships expired in the last twelve months

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

By Sean Embury

Our communications efforts in 2015 were focused on three primary areas.

1. The marketing and promotion of DOC BC events
2. The promotion of DOC events and initiatives
3. The promotion of general documentary news, trends, and currents within Canada and around the world

The promotion of our events led to successful awareness of DOC events and increased turnouts and of the organization and its mission. Our promotion of documentary news, trends, and currents was a continuation of our positioning DOC BC as a thought leader and source of documentary resources.

Most, but not all, of our communications efforts were through digital channels. All were focused on generating earned media. No paid media was employed.

Regular communications were distributed through our:

- Weekly DOC BC Newsletter
- Daily social media updates on Facebook and Twitter
- Monthly blog posts at docbc.org
- Special posts and updates promoting events

Additional promotions were made through.

- Print promotions – posters made up for special events and posted on free boards at local film and art schools.
- Broadcast interviews – we coordinated appearance on provincial CBC Radio One show, *On the Coast*, in order to promote DOC BC and our event with Director, Steve James.
- Event and Trade promotions – We had outreach tables at high profile documentary events, including VIFF Industry Forum and Media Democracy Days. DOC BC board and staff members manned the tables, talked with audiences, answered questions, and promoted the mandate of an membership in the organization.

Throughout the year we saw organic growth of over 20% across our social audience metrics.

- DOC BC Twitter @doc_bc has 1859 followers
- DOC BC Facebook page has 832 members

- DOC BC Email has 465 subscribers (members, friends, and sponsors)

Our goals for 2016 include:

- Increasing the reach of our organic and social media audience and reach
- To leverage more earned media through interviews, news, and blog stories in order to promote the organization and its events
- To produce more shareable, documentary focused content that positions DOC BC as thought leaders and generates interest in the organization

Zack and Sean want to thank Milena Salazar whose commitment to our outreach and social campaigns were key to the success of our communications and promotional efforts in 2015.

SPONSORSHIP REPORT

By David Vaisbord

This year the board was sad to say goodbye to Erica Landrock. She left the sponsorship portfolio in very good shape for incoming co-chair David Vaisbord, who renewed all of DOC BC's 2014 corporate sponsors for 2015.

DOC BC would like to thank all of our sponsors for continuing to support the organization and the documentary community in British Columbia. Through the generous support of these companies, we have been able to offer numerous workshops, film screenings and events to the Vancouver documentary community this year.

In addition to the workshops offered by DOC, we have also been pleased to sponsor numerous film festivals and events around Vancouver, supporting and cheering on the local film community.

DOC BC's board is very pleased to welcome TELUS Storyhive to our filmmakers' community as a SILVER sponsor. Storyhive's project manager, Erin Mussolum is keen to have the opportunity to showcase their funding platform at a DOC BC event in 2016.

DOC BC is also looking forward to repeating the success of our 2015 cinematography workshop at Fusion Cine in 2016.

This year we have seen an increase in online engagement and interaction with sponsors, members and new-members alike through our multiple social media channels. It has been great to see some of our sponsors join us and participate in our monthly events.

Thank you to the new and returning sponsors who continue to believe in and support the work that DOC BC is doing. Please take a look at what services these sponsors provide. Many of them offer special deals to DOC BC members so be sure to go and say hello!

Our generous sponsors for 2015 are:

Front Row Insurance
Fusion Cine
Omni Film Entertainment
Novus Entertainment
Line 21 Media
Finale Editworks
Telus Storyhive
Make Believe Media
Annex Pro
Core Music Agency

Looking ahead to 2016, DOC looks forward to continuing to work together with our existing sponsors as well as welcoming new sponsors into our community. If you or your company is interested in providing financial or in-kind support for DOC BC, please contact us at doc@docbc.org.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REPORT

By Adelina Suvagau, Sonia Suvagau and Rami Katz

DOC BC, Professional Development continues its mandate to provide our members with professional development opportunities.

In 2015 we've organized the following workshops:

- Meet the Broadcasters (January 19, 2015)
- Understanding Funding Sources and Tax Credits in BC (February 19, 2015)
- A Day with Steve James - Workshop and Masterclass (March 14, 2015)
- Social Media Strategies for Documentary Production and Promotion organized with the interactive agencies - Phillip from Agentic, Catherine from Switch United, and Kirstin from the Social Agency (April 15, 2015)
- Better Safe Than Sorry: Your Film and the Law (October 29, 2015)
- Hot Docs Talks with Elizabeth Radshaw (December 1, 2015)

Additional events were organized in a great partnership with Cineworks, WIFTV and DOXA such as the monthly film and media showcases co-presented with WIFTV and Cineworks and the monthly DocTalk screenings co-presented with Cineworks.

For 2016, DOC BC PD department would like to continue organizing the workshops on diverse, interesting topics such as: “The Future of Online Film Distribution and Marketing”, “Master Class with Mark Achbar”, “Meet the Broadcasters”, “Building an Audience Before a Film is Completed”, “Know How of Crowdfunding”, “Documentary Ethics”, and much more which will help DOC BC’s members deepen their skills and learn new ones.

INCOMING BOARD

Joella Cabalu

Joella Cabalu is a Filipino-Canadian documentary filmmaker with an Art History degree from the University of British Columbia (2008) and more recently a graduate of the Documentary Film Production Program at Langara College (2013). In 2015, she was a participant in the Hot Docs Shaw Media Diverse Voices program, the Inspirit Foundation Story Money Impact fellowship and the Reel World Impact Film Lab. She intends to tell intimate stories of personal struggles from the perspective of marginalized people, including immigrants, women of colour, and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ) community.

She recently produced, directed and wrote her first feature documentary *It Runs in the Family* (2015) for OUTtv Network to be released in summer 2016.

Ana Carrizales

Ana Carrizales is a producer, director and actress. In 2007, after leaving a successful practice in Psychology to pursue her artistic dreams, she received the NBC-Universal Screenwriting scholarship, winning the Best Screenplay Award upon graduation. In 2009, she produced the Playback Theater Youth Troupe, recipient of the 2014 City of Richmond’s Arts Innovation Award for its artistic excellence. In connection to this project, she produced, wrote & directed the anti-bullying documentary *Journey to Action*, funded by the Government of BC, currently used in high schools in Richmond to engage youth in dialogue around bullying, racism & multiculturalism.

In addition to numerous short films, she has written, produced and directed, Ana’s present creative enterprise is *The Panties Project*, a multi-platform, interactive documentary series & global forum for women to share their diverse stories.

Sandra Ignani

Sandra Ignani is an emerging documentary filmmaker. She completed training in Digital Film Production at Langara College in 2014, and her short documentaries have screened in over 18 communities across Canada and in the United States. Before turning to documentary, Sandra worked as a researcher for 15 years, specializing in legal and policy research, visual archival research and documentation of local ecological knowledge and oral history. She holds a PhD in Political Science (York University, 2012) and a Master of Arts in Canadian & Indigenous Studies (Trent University, 2004). Sandra also brings several years of experience in fundraising and strategic grant development for universities, hospitals and non-governmental organizations to the DOC BC Board. She currently sits on the fundraising committee of DOC National. Her current project offers a short portrait of East Vancouver's eclectic community activist brass band - The Carnival Band - which she hopes will evolve into a feature-length documentary about the global Honk! music movement.

RETURNING BOARD

Julia Ivanova Co-Chair

Julia Ivanova is an award-winning Vancouver documentary filmmaker, whose film, *Family Portrait in Black and White* played at Sundance and won Best Canadian Feature at Hot Docs 2011. Being a director/editor/cinematographer and an avid fan of international documentaries, she believes in the emotional power of visual storytelling and poetic cinema. Ivanova has been actively involved in the documentary filmmaking community by co-chairing DOC BC and sitting on the Board of Hot Docs Festival.

She is currently editing her latest project, *Limit is the Sky*, about young dreamers in the oil sands that she filmed and directed for the NFB.

David Vaisbord Co-Chair, National Representative

Filmmaker, activist and educator David Vaisbord, has made several award winning films, including the Gemini nominated biography *Drawing Out the Demons: a film about the artist Attila Richard Lukacs* (2004), Canadian cult classic *Juicy Danger Meets Burning Man* (1998), *Mischa* (1996) *Britannia Beach* (2002), *Dark Pines: An Investigation into the Death of Tom Thomson* (2006).

Launched in 2008, David's most ambitious project continues to be the Little Mountain Project. It has evolved through many forms including a website to

provide transparency for a controversial redevelopment process, activist films, art installations, and a Master's thesis published in POV Magazine. Vaisbord has been asked to share his research with undergraduate students in planning, urban geography, and media arts, and speaks to the media on issues of public housing, and the destruction of fragile communities in an era of neo-liberal reform.

The project's next stage is the completion of a feature documentary retitled: "Champions of Little Mountain". For more information about the film visit The Little Mountain Film. With the support of his family, Vaisbord continues to shoot and edit and dream. He wishes to contribute to the survival of the documentary film in Canada through his work for DOC BC.

Zack Embree

Zack Embree is a Vancouver based photographer, filmmaker, artist and activist. He is director and co-producer of *Directly Affected*, an impact documentary project about the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion and co-director of the follow-up film *Where We Live*, about Canadian oil sands expansion, mega-pipeline proposals and the potential of a low carbon economy.

Both projects have emerged from his desire to fund, produce and inform his ethnographic media works through crowd-power. *Directly Affected / Where We Live* media projects are an experiment in media activism, engaging audiences and creating impact through ongoing social media storytelling and new forms of media distribution.

Zack is also an experienced facilitator, certified with the Centre for Digital Storytelling in Berkeley, CA. During his time with Vancouver Coastal Health he has developed extensive programming to build community and creative capacity with marginalized youth and adults receiving treatment for complex and concurrent disorders. Zack was a core member of Vancouver Coastal Health's organizational change initiative "Addressing Stigma" utilizing digital storytelling and social media platforms to support the process.

Sean Embury

Sean has been creating innovative broadcast and interactive media for 20 years. As a producer he has been a key player in the creation of some of the Canada's most acclaimed cross-media properties, including NFB/Interactive, CBC Radio 3, and CBC Television's *ZeD* and *Exposure*. As a digital strategist and interactive creative director he has directed interactive work over 100 high-profile clients including Nike, Motorola, United Airlines, H2O+, McDonald's, Future Shop, Vancouver 2010, Tourism BC, and The Chicago Stock Exchange.

Since 2010 his company, Fulscrn Interactive Media, has worked with Canada's leading broadcasters, film and television producers, publishers, and cultural institutions to tell and extend their stories on emerging digital platforms. The company has produced a deep portfolio of award winning interactive arts, news, and documentary projects for the NFB, CBC, documentary, APTN, and Knowledge Network. His work has received multiple Webby, FWA, Applied Arts, Digi, and Canadian Online Publishing Awards, and in 2013 his work received a Canadian Screen Award for Best Cross-Platform Non-Fiction Work for Truth & Lies – The Last Days of Osama bin Laden produced with CBCNews.ca and CBC News the fifth estate.

Parm Gill

Parm Gill is a chartered accountant, qualified in 1995, articulated with KPMG and has worked in accounting and finance since then. He has worked at the Controller and CFO level for a number of entities largely in the Pharmaceutical and Finance Industries. Parm currently runs his own practice for small businesses in Surrey, BC.

Rami Katz

Rami Katz is a Canadian filmmaker living in Vancouver, and holds a BFA in Film Production from Simon Fraser University. He is currently enrolled in the MFA in Film Production program at the University of British Columbia, where he has received the H. Norman Lidster Prize in Documentary Filmmaking, in addition to scholarships from the BC Arts Council and the BC Film Foundation. Rami's short documentary An Exploration of Light is currently being distributed by the Winnipeg Film Group, and his personal short film, Fish Soup, premiered at Devour! The Food Film Fest.

He has worked in Vancouver's film and television industry as a production manager, assistant director, and additional editor on a variety of broadcast and award-winning projects including documentary features, lifestyle and animated television series. Along with being a board member for DOC BC, he is an associate member of the Canadian Cinema Editors, and has been selected to participate at the 2015 Doc Circuit Montreal Talent Lab.

Fiona Rayher

Fiona Rayher is a documentary filmmaker and public engagement specialist. She is the Artistic Director and Co-Founder of Gen Why Media - a production group working to innovate public engagement using media, events and public art. She is also the co-director and co-producer of feature documentary, Fractured Land. Fiona's past films include Generation Why (2010) and Most Livable City (2010),

included in numerous short film festivals. She is also on the board of DOC BC - the BC chapter of the Documentary Organization of Canada, and the Hot Docs Documentary Film Festival. She frequently speaks at schools and events about engagement through media production and documentary film.

Sonia Suvagau

With a passion for writing and directing, Sonia strives to achieve spontaneity and honesty through film. Recent credits include her original documentary mini-series on happiness entitled Ecstatic! for Vision TV and her feature debut Rose Colored Glasses which had its enthusiastic premiere at the DOXA Documentary Film Festival in Vancouver.

Sonia graduated with honours in 2010 from Simon Fraser University's School for the Contemporary Arts in Vancouver, Canada with a BFA in Film. Her grad film Salvation won Best Short in the Death By Night Screening at Moving Image in Toronto and Best International Student Film at the Illinois International Film Festival in Chicago. She was also awarded the Best Student Film and Best Actor award at the L.A. Global Film Festival.

Additionally, Sonia has over 8 years experience as a videographer and editor and has heavily assisted the production of two other TV documentaries We Can't See You Beating Us (funded by Rogers) and Return to Byzantium (aired on CBC). Currently she has just premiered her second feature documentary entitled Our 1/4 Life Crisis, which will be making its festival run.

The DOC BC Board would like to acknowledge Adelina Suvagau and Arun Fryer's work in 2015 and their many years of commitment to our organization. Thank you!

KEEP IN TOUCH

Both members and non-members can sign up for our weekly newsletter, reporting documentary news, events, festival and funding deadlines, screenings, and other good stuff. You can sign up for the e-newsletter by e-mailing us at docbc@docbc.org

You can also follow us on Facebook, and Twitter @DOC_BC, or visit us on the web at docbc.org

Thank you for joining us at the 2015 AGM, and we wish you a restful holiday and a successful 2016.