

BC Chapter



DOCUMENTARY
ORGANIZATION OF CANADA
DOCUMENTARISTES
DU CANADA

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

17 November 2011

The Shebeen

212 Carrall Street, Vancouver

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AGENDA

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3	Report from the Chair	5m
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6	Other Business	10m
7	Introduction of Incoming 2012 Board Members	5m
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INCOMING BOARD

STEPHEN GILLIS is an independent writer, director, and producer who taught himself the craft of filmmaking while working as a projectionist at 5th Avenue Cinemas in Vancouver. He went on to develop his style by directing several short films, music videos, and commercials before moving into documentary filmmaking. Production began on his debut feature length documentary *This Wrestling Life* (Make Believe Media) in July 2008, a verite style documentary that follows the stories of three aspiring professional wrestlers in the Lower Mainland chasing their dreams over the course of their yearlong training. Gillis is currently in post-production on his next feature length documentary *Solar Maasai* (Random Pictures), which tells the story of a team of solar power engineers bringing light to a rural Maasai village in Northern Kenya. Gillis's work has been heralded as bringing a "New York edge" to the Vancouver musical scene in his music videos, while also delivering heartwarming and intimate observational documentaries following captivating subjects in uncommon worlds.

ERICA LANDROCK is an award-winning producer. A recipient of the Astral Media Emerging Documentary Filmmaker Scholarship, the Hot Docs Rendezvous pitch Prize for Best Canadian pitch and a CTV National Fellow, Erica has transitioned her career from audio mixing and sound design into producing. She was the associate producer for the mockumentary feature film *Sunflower Hour* which had its world premiere at the 2011 Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, producer of the short film *Sad Bear* and associate producer on the documentary *Edge of the World: BC's Early Years*. Her company Landrock Entertainment is currently in production on a 3 part documentary series about Labour History for Knowledge Network, in development on a television series entitled *Bordello* as part of the National Screen Institute's Totally Television Program and has numerous documentary projects in various stages of development. Erica received her undergraduate degree from Ryerson University's Radio & Television Arts program in Toronto and a certificate in Entertainment Administration from the University of British Columbia in Vancouver.

ERIK PAULSSON is an award-winning filmmaker with over twenty years of film and television experience. After graduating with distinction from Concordia's film program, Erik moved to Vancouver where he founded Red Storm Productions in 1999. Under this banner, Erik has produced or directed seven films to date, *The Edge of the World: BC's Early Years* (2010), *Peacing It Together* (2008), *Eve & the Fire Horse* (2006), *Army of One* (2004), *Say I Do* (2002), *Island of Shadows* (2000), and *Protection* (2000). In addition to his work as filmmaker, Erik has also been a film instructor at UBC, the Vancouver Film School, Selkirk College, and the Gulf Islands Film and Television School. Erik has sat on various Boards of Directors, including the Cineworks Filmmakers Society, the Greater Vancouver Interactive Arts Society, and now the Documentary Organization of Canada.

JON ORNOY is a native of Toronto who currently resides and works in Vancouver. After attending the film programs at both Ryerson Polytechnic University in Toronto and the Vancouver Film School, Jon bucked the prevailing trend by actually working in the film industry after graduation. His nine year career as a camera assistant (IA669) found him working on all scales and genres of production and laying tape marks at the feet of some of Hollywood's finest. Formed in 2007, Jon's production company Animal Mother Films is an expression of his long-simmering need to pursue his own creative ideas, now runneth over. After producing and directing three short films, including the Bravo!Fact selection *Plastic Bottles*, Jon recently completed production on AMF's first feature project *With Glowing Hearts: The #van2010 Social Media Story*. The film, which looks at the intersection of social justice and social media, will air on CBC's documentary channel beginning in November 2011 and is distributed by FilmOption International.

RETURNING BOARD

MICHAELIN MCDERMOTT has had an eclectic career that spans from writer to photographer to director, Michaelin has over a decade's experience as a film and TV unit photographer and for four years was a producer at The Discovery Channel. Her most recent independent credits include the short drama *Replay* that premiered at the LA Femme Festival, and *Light: More Than Meets The Eye* – a two-part documentary mini-series shot in HD for Discovery Channel Canada, and Knowledge Network. *Light* was nominated for a Leo Award as best documentary and has international distribution.

Michaelin teaches at the not-for-profit film school Pull Focus. She's a former participant in the Banff Centre's Women in the Director's Chair and serves on the BC board of the Documentary Organization of Canada this year as Co-Chair.

JULIA IVANOVA was initially trained in at the world-renowned Russian Film Institute (VGIK) in Moscow. In 1995, Julia immigrated to Canada where she concentrated on writing, directing and producing documentaries. Her first film, an award-winning documentary *From Russia, For Love*, about adoption of older children, has been televised in 26 countries. She directed, produced and wrote the script/narration for this film. She directed and wrote *I Want a Woman*, which has been shown on CBC Newsworld and IFC. Julia produced, directed, wrote and shot *Moscow Freestyle*, a documentary about Canadian and American English teachers that live and work in Moscow, her native city. In 2007 she worked as writer and director on a one-hour documentary about gay fathers and their children *Fatherhood Dreams* for Global TV and Knowledge Network. *True Love or Marriage Fraud? The Price of Heartache* was broadcast on CBC News Network in 2010. *Love Translated* premiered at Chicago International Film Festival. She is currently travelling with her latest film *Family Portrait in Black and White* which was selected for Sundance 2011, and won Best Canadian Feature at Hot Docs 2011. She is on the board of the Documentary Organization of Canada BC Chapter as a Co-Chair in 2012 as well as the board of the Hot Docs Documentary Film Festival.

SHEONA MCDONALD is a noteworthy producer, director and writer, Sheona has been working in the film industry for over a decade and has recently returned to Vancouver after running her company, Dimestore Productions Inc., out of Toronto for the last eight years. In 1994, she made her first student short, *With My Boots On*, the story of author Rosalin MacPhee's fight against breast cancer. She followed that production with *Breaking The Cycle*, an examination of domestic violence in the Aboriginal community in Vancouver. Sheona then began a five-year odyssey independently producing *Lifers: Stories From Prison*, an hour-long documentary about men serving life sentences in Canadian prisons.

She spent a year afield producing and directing five half-hour documentaries for the series *Centre Stage Chronicles*, featuring Canadian artists from different cultural backgrounds. She was also nominated for a Gemini award for the writing on a documentary she produced, wrote and directed called *Capturing A Short Life* for CBC Newsworld.

Sheona is currently directing and writing a television documentary called *When Dreams Take Flight* that explores the myths, dreams and obsessions of human beings desire to fly like birds, through following the process of a group of students building a human powered ornithopter.

ADELINA SUVAGAU is a respected TV Producer with 20 years experience and is currently the producer, director, videographer and editor of Rompost TV, the Romanian Television Show for Omni BC, cable 8. Awarded for the Best Television Show in 1993 by the Association of Television Professionals in Romania, Adelina produced over 300 television shows for the Romanian National TV Station between 1990 and 1995.

Trained as a BBC correspondent in Europe, Adelina worked in 1995 as the News Director for Amerom Television, an American TV station licensed in Bucharest, Romania. In 1995 Adelina moved to Vancouver from Romania, with her husband and daughter, and founded Sonia Productions Inc. Sonia Productions Inc. has earned a reputation for technical and creative excellence and consistent completion of projects on time and within budget. Sonia Productions Inc. specializes in television and documentary production, TV commercials, training videos and DVD production. Since 2004, Adelina has produced over 360-television episodes for Channel M and Omni BC, cable 8. In recognition for promoting Romanian culture in Canada, in 2006 the BC Romanian Community Centre awarded Adelina the Culture Promoter Award.

SHAUNA WHITTALL graduated from the Professional Film Studies program at Capilano College in 2000. She then went on to work as an Assistant Production Coordinator on various independent films and TV series. In 2001 she and her husband Josh started Wandering Gecko Entertainment Inc. and produced the dramatic feature film *The Gutter Diaries* which went on to win Best Director at the New York International Independent Film and Video Festival (2006) and Pumelo International Film Festival (2007) as well as second place Best Experimental Film at The Indy Gathering (2007). They recently completed their second feature film *City Of Vendettas*. Shauna is also working as an Accounting Assistant for Omni Film Productions Ltd. while working towards her CGA designation.

BALJIT SANGRA is a Vancouver based filmmaker who has worked as both Director and Producer in documentary and factual entertainment. A graduate of the UBC Film Program, her career has been as diverse and stimulating as the city itself, writing, directing and producing for television, film, magazines and theatre. She is passionate about exploring cross-cultural issues and understanding through the Arts.

Sangra has worked as a director/producer for a number of different programs, including the Arts and Entertainment series VIVA! for City TV Vancouver and Omni TV (formerly channel M) for several seasons. Her most recent documentary, *Warrior Boyz*, is a co-production with the National Film Board. It was produced in association with Canwest Media for Global's *Currents* and the Knowledge Network and aired in 2009. *Warrior Boyz* examines the long running gang scene in the Lower Mainland that has claimed over 100 Indo-Canadian youth, and has screened at several festivals throughout North America. Baljit is also on the Executive of Vancouver Asian Film Festival and was the Co-Program Director for 2010.

2011 BOARD REPORTS

CHAIR REPORT by Michaelin McDermott

Welcome to DOC BC's Annual General Meeting and Holiday Party!

It's always good to celebrate accomplishment and this past year saw a number DOC BC's members have success. So hats off to: board member Julia Ivanova whose *Family Portrait in Black and White* was the 2011 winner of Hot DOCS best Canadian Feature; former board member Diane Whelan's self-financed *40 Days at Base Camp* which was one of the most popular films at VIFF; Gary Marcuse and Betsy Carson's *Waking the Green Tiger* that garnered the 2011 Best Canadian Feature Film Award at Planet in Focus Environmental Film Festival, Melanie Wood and Jeff Topham's award winning *Liberia 77*; board member Sheona McDonald whose *When Dreams Take Flight* airs on documentary channel Monday, November 21st and the International theatrical release of *The Whale* – a film by Vancouver Island members Suzanne Chisholm & Michael Parfit.

For most of 2011, Leah Mallen was DOC's hardworking chair. Since September, she's been attending a producers' workshop in Amsterdam with her family and shares that it's an inspiring opportunity... especially in these challenging times for documentary.

Presently Julia Ivanova and Michaelin McDermott share chair duties.

We have a dedicated and hard-working board of very busy people and I want to thank each of them.

Departing Board Members

For various reasons, a number of board members departed this year but I would like to acknowledge their efforts.

Trent Hignell – who undertook the final edit of the John Reiss workshop. We will be eternally grateful for his effort.

Patti Poskitt – work has taken her elsewhere but her enthusiasm was infectious.

Jesse James Miller – Jesse will be much missed. He organized the very popular SDLR workshop and I wish him every success as his feature doc moves into production.

Diane Whelan – Diane's great energy and go-for-it attitude is our loss. This year, she's busy promoting and distributing *40 Days at Base Camp*

Greg Masuda – moved on as a recipient of DOC's *Giving Voices* apprenticeship program.

Incoming Board Members

I wish a warm welcome to our new 2012 board members.

Erik Paulsson

Erica Landrock

Stephen Gillis

Jon Ornoy

As always, a volunteer organization is challenging and it would be even harder without our enterprising, part-time coordinator, Nancy Shaw. She is invaluable in so many ways, not the least being, keeping all our communication current – the weekly e-blast continues to evolve as a great resource and virtual meeting ground, and the web site rocks.

As well, I'd be remiss not to mention how our treasurer, Shauna Whittall, has taken the angst out of chapter bookkeeping. Our financial record keeping is prompt and impeccable.

2011 was a year of transition for DOC BC. And I think that in many ways, it's a reflection of what's happening in the doc-making world. Our membership presently sits at 129, a decrease from 2010. We know that filmmaking times are changing and that flourishing, as a documentary filmmaker is an ever-greater challenge, but we will push hard to increase our membership in 2012.

For DOC to continue as an advocate and voice for its membership, our chapter will undertake a town hall meeting in January 2012. The idea is to openly discuss how we as an organization can stay current; where our focus should be; and what we can offer our members to make their filmmaking lives better.

Meanwhile DOC BC continues to forge new alliances. The Victoria Film Producers Association (VIPA) is interested in sharing workshops and resources, as are filmmakers in the Yukon.

At the chapter level, *Professional Development* continues to be a priority. In 2011, we undertook five workshops that ran the gamut from working with the latest technology to self-distribution.

Our mentorship programs were on hiatus in 2011 but *DOC Shadows and DOC one-on-one* will return in 2012.

Sponsors

With the help of friends, DOC BC is able to offer up a variety of workshops and undertakings, so a big thanks you to our sponsors:

Novus
BC Film
Front Row Entertainment
Omni Film
Finale Editworks
Line 21 Media Services
Annex Pro

Spirit Sound Post
Make Believe Media
The NFB
The Mix Room
and our in-kind sponsors
Sonia Productions
Reel West

And finally, thanks to you, the members who continually support DOC in both small and large ways.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REPORT by *Sheona McDonald*

At the end of 2010, DOC BC's PD committee was made up of three key members who organized the majority of events with moderate attendance at most events. With the influx of new board members in early 2011 and a keen interest in professional development, the committee expanded from three to nine.

Like DOC BC itself the PD committee is in transition. Through out 2011, we've been trying to determine who is attending our workshops, what they want, and establishing whether there is still a need to have an event every month or if we are better to have 3-6 great events every year.

Despite these on-going questions, our declining membership and a change in the face of the industry, we were able to create and participate in a number of valuable workshops:

In February we did a Marketing and Publicity Event at the Railway Club that was moderately attended. <http://docbc.org/2011/01/21/doc-talk-february-marketing-publicity-for-documentary/>

We also hosted the two day John Reiss workshop -- a great workshop but with mediocre attendance. <http://docbc.org/2011/02/02/think-outside-the-box-office-the-2-day-workshop-for-filmmakers/>

In March we participated in the Fair Dealing Road Show and the results of that event were included in the recently release "The Search for Fair Dealing: Report on the Doc Road Show." <http://docbc.org/2011/02/17/fair-dealing-roadshow-vancouver/>

In May we Co-Presented the Social Issue Filmmaking Workshop and also hosted a very successful workshop about shooting docs on DSLR at VIVO, perhaps our most popular and well /broadly attended workshop in the last two years. <http://docbc.org/2011/05/15/social-issue-filmmaking-workshop/>

In September we presented “Working the Festival Circuit” at VIVO and although we had great panelists and planned the event to coincide with VIFF we had very low attendance. However a plus of this event is that most of the participants went out socially after the event, which provided a great opportunity for contact and discussion. <http://docbc.org/2011/09/06/doc-bc-presents-working-the-festival-circuit/>

One thing we did establish this year was the use of VIVO on Main Street as our core venue for events and workshops, we are excited by this development because it feels like we have a home base from which to work and, once we can build a greater interest in our events, people will know where to find us.

So, in summary, we are excited about the potential for 2012 and for a renewed sense of enthusiasm and focus. We will start 2012 with a Documentary Town Hall where we hope to bring together a group of people who work in documentary/factual and non-scripted production to discuss the state of the industry and how we can best serve our members and the changing industry moving forward.

NATIONAL REPORT by *Adelina Suwagau*

In the last year DOC National has published three reports:

Getting Real (economic profile)

http://docorg.ca/sites/docorg.ca/files/GettingReal4_1.pdf

The Search for fair dealing (the result of a pan-Canadian consultation about copyright and documentary production)

Digital distribution report (performance of Canadian docs on digital platforms, the first publication of its kind to provide benchmarks on the actual performance of Canadian docs on Canadian platforms and services)

For more information on the Digital distribution report please visit:

<http://www.docorg.ca/sites/docorg.ca/files/DOC-DigitalDistributionReport-English.pdf>

We have been very active on the following fronts:

Copyright reform

Broadcaster license renewals at the CRTC

CMF

For more information on the Copyright report and Fair Dealing report please visit:

<http://docorg.ca/en/copyright-fair-dealing>

Our biggest preoccupation is the broken funding model and the absence of broadcaster commitment to one-offs. We don't have a solution to the problem, but we are trying to come up with one.

We've also embarked on a strategic plan for DOC. We are pondering the next big questions for the association: what do we stand for, on whose behalf do we speak? What services can we offer our members that will draw new members to DOC?

We launched the "We love documentary campaign" in English and in French.

We hope to draw attention to all the documentary lovers out there and make a compelling case to decision makers that are there, all of these viewers; surely we have to find a way to support the genre.

Finally we started the Giving Voice program, which is returning for a second year. It's a unique program in the industry.

TREASURER'S REPORT by Shauna Whittall

2011 has been a challenging yet exciting year for DOC BC. The chapter has been going through a transition and we are very excited to see where 2012 will take us.

Our biggest expense for this year was for our Think Outside The Box workshop with Jon Reiss. We were able to accomplish this with the support of BC Film and NFB.

We have been very lucky to have some wonderful returning sponsors this year and we hope to continue working with them next year, as well as building some new partnerships.

Thank you to all of the board members that have put in such hard work to ensure a great year, we look forward to an even more exciting 2012.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT by Nancy Shaw

I joined DOC BC as Communications Coordinator in late 2010 and have enjoyed my first year on staff. 2011 began with a retooled website (docbc.org) and a restyled version of the weekly news e-blast. At this time the e-blast regularly goes

out to roughly 400 members, non-member subscribers, sponsor organizations and schools.

We also turned our old Facebook account into a fanpage, which is a type of account designed for public figures and organizations, and began using Twitter (@DOC_BC). The news e-blasts are published through these outlets each week, as well as through e-mail.

These social media tools have allowed us to stay in touch with the membership in a more user friendly way. It has also allowed us to keep better tabs on our membership: when they win awards, then their films are screened, etc., so we can report on it.

In 2012 we want to focus on increasing the participation options for our remote members. We are researching the logistics of live-streaming our events and/or recording them and making them available for streaming later on.

2011 SPONSORS

DOC BC is deeply grateful to all the sponsors who provided us with essential financial support in 2011. Thank you!



Line 21 Media Services Ltd.



If your organization is interested in providing financial or in-kind support for DOC BC in 2012 please contact us at docbc@docbc.org

DOOR PRIZES

We would also like to thank the following companies for generously donating tonight's door prizes:

Spirit Sound Post

Make Believe Media

Line 21 Media Services Ltd.

Finale Editworks

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 2011 AGM, and we wish you a restful holiday and a successful 2012.