



The Quon family, who along with their Edmonton restaurant, star in Anaïd Production's 3rd season of the popular reality show "The Family Restaurant." New episodes can now be seen four times a week on the Food Network.

Anaïd's 'wok' on the wild side Edmonton Chinese eatery featured in 3rd season of "The Family Restaurant" on the Food Network

The Lingnan is more than just a Chinese Restaurant, it's an institution. For sixty years the Quons have been serving steaming platters of Kung Pao Chicken and Ginger Beef to the people of Edmonton – and now they'll be dishing up some family friction and lots of behind the scenes action for television viewers across Canada. The venerable Lingnan and its loveable proprietors are the stars of the third season of Food Network's popular documentary series, "The Family Restaurant," which premiered Thursday, January 8 at 8:00pm MT; repeating at midnight. The series repeats Saturdays at 11:00am MT/ and 5:00pm MT.

The new season follows in the footsteps of the highly successful seasons featuring the fiery Psalios family and their celebrated Greek eateries. Anaïd Productions' Executive Producer **Margaret Mardirossian** is confident viewers will also fall in love with the Quons: "They have a refreshingly genuine sense of humour about work and family. There really is nothing like this on television."

Amy Quon is energy incarnate and she bowls over the guests with her hospitality. She is a congenial dictator who bosses everyone in the family. **Kinman Quon** is serene in comparison. As owner of the establishment he always tries to keep things on track, he is the calm in the storm, steadfast and dependable no matter how chaotic things get. 25-year-old **Miles** and his sister **Mandy** are proud of the Lingnan's legacy and love all their faithful fans - but they are determined to drag the old haunt into the 21st century. This desire is an endless source of tension in the family as new and old vie for supremacy. A passionate perfectionist, Miles is often impatient with his sedate father, vents at his slacker brother **Marty** and clashes with his outspoken mother. But the family bonds run as deep as their commitment to the Lingnan and stressful days are punctuated with cheerful camaraderie and frequent laughter.

"The Quons are an incredible family: hardworking, extremely direct and often hilarious. And beneath all their bluster and bossiness lies a deep felt affection for each other and a genuine passion for what they do," says Anaïd's VP of Production **David Way**.

With a wedding to plan in Beijing, new cooks to hire from China, some major renovations to oversee and Chinese New Year to plan the series is non stop action from the get go. For six months Anaïd Productions documented every triumph, conflict, celebration, ordeal, festivity and disaster that beset the Quons and the result is a continuing series that is exceptionally funny, occasionally very outrageous but always entertaining. One thing is certain - the Quon family delivers.

"The Family Restaurant" is produced by Anaïd Productions Inc. in association with Food Network, with the participation of the CanWest Alberta Fund, a program of the Independent Production Fund; and the Assistance of the Government of Alberta, Alberta Film Development Program; as well as the Government of Canada - Canadian Film or Video Production Tax Credit Program.

In other Anaïd news, production has started on the fourth season of the popular reality series "X-Weighted," with filming taking place in Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver. See page 5 for full details.

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A crossroads for content creators, by Jane Bisbee, AMPIA's Interim Executive Director

In recent weeks I have had many curious questions from family and friends outside the film and television industry about this new gig I have taken on. So in the quiet moments between the flurry of Christmas baking and present wrapping, I have found myself thinking a lot about a deceptively simple question.

Just what is AMPIA?

You could start by looking at our name, and whether it defines who we are, and whom we bring together at the table. But once we're all around the table, then what?

I usually find myself describing AMPIA as a link between the many players in the screen-based, content creation business. We are the crossroads where a lot of information is gathered and shared about the state of the business, and what is needed for the Alberta-based industry to thrive and grow. And we have a huge responsibility to bring this information clearly and forcefully to the attention of those agencies and partners with which we work.

I wouldn't be saying anything you already don't know by observing there are profound changes afoot for this industry,

some of them disturbing, which are affecting all our members regardless of their role.

While there is a great deal of anecdotal evidence on the state of production in Alberta, it is becoming increasingly clear that AMPIA must take steps to quantify the changes in things such as levels of licensing by broadcasters, feature distribution and exhibition, federal program dollars coming to this province and more before we can clearly speak to governments and regulatory agencies on our members' behalf. It is time once again for AMPIA to bring information and people together at the table. A major proposal in this regard is now in the works for which I will most certainly be requesting your help and support in the weeks to come.

Meanwhile, work continues on improved communications tools for the association, preparing for upcoming CRTC hearings, and the steam roller that is the Alberta Film & Television Awards gathers speed.

I await your suggestions, comments and lively arguments.

Here comes 2009.

CTF releases new guidelines

On December 18 the Canadian Television Fund (CTF) released its 2009-2010 funding guidelines, which outline the application process, criteria, and deadlines for all CTF programs. The 2009-2010 CTF Guidelines include minor changes from 2008-2009, as the CTF continues to work with stakeholders to fine-tune its funding process and adapt to market realities.

"Getting feedback from our clients is very important to us, and we will continue considering their suggestions to ensure that our funding decision and allocation processes continue to be effective," said **Valerie Creighton**, President and CEO of the Canadian Television Fund.

The following are a few highlights of the new guidelines:

- Some Development financing rules adjusted
- Standard distribution fees updated to current market levels
- Producer fees and corporate overhead maximum increased from \$1.2 million per project to \$1.4 million per project in production streams

A complete list of guideline changes is available on the CTF's website at <www.ctf-fct.ca>.

Canadian publications mail sales product agreement No. 40036756; return undeliverable Canadian addresses to: Alberta Motion Picture Industries Association 318, 8944 182nd Street NW, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5T 2E3; (780) 944-0707; e-mail: <info@ampia.org>.

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Membership News

Panacea Entertainment staying busy

Edmonton based Panacea Entertainment's one-hour documentary shot in China entitled "Seeds of Change – the ECO story," written by **Scot Morison & Francis Damberger**, produced by **Lisa Miller** and directed by **Ava Karvonen** won the Festival Theme Award "Enriching the Human Spirit Through Film" on Saturday, November 8 at the 9th Annual Ojai Film Festival.

On Wednesday, December 5, Writer/Director **Mitch Miyagawa** and Executive Producer **Josh Miller** pitched a new one-hour documentary program entitled "Apologies" during Pitch Fest West at the recent Whistler Film Festival and came away with both the Audience Choice Award and the National Film Board of Canada Development Prize.



And the company's comedy feature film "Freezer Burn: The Invasion of Laxdale" screened at the Whistler Film Festival on Friday, December 5 to a sold-out house. Star **Tom Green** and Alberta director **Grant Harvey** were in attendance, along with an official Alberta delegation that included Alberta Minister of Culture and Community Spirit **Lindsay Blackett**, Alberta Film Commissioner **Jeff Brinton** and Edmonton Film Commissioner **Patti Tucker**.

"Freezer Burn: The Invasion of Laxdale" also screened at a Special Preview Engagement at the Broadway Theatre in Saskatoon from December 20 to 23.

NFB's Award-winning Alberta short invited to Sundance Film Festival



Created to honour Alberta playwright **John Murrell** on the occasion of his receiving a lifetime achievement award from the Governor General of Canada, the National Film Board of Canada's animated short "The Real Place" now finds itself at centre stage, with a date at the prestigious Sundance Film Festival this month.

Directed and animated by Calgarian **Cam Christiansen**, and written by **Blake Brooker**, with sound and music by **Dewi Wood**, "The Real Place" gives free rein to the imagination of acclaimed playwright Murrell, suspending the laws of time and space to create a visual accompaniment to the writer's flights of poetic fancy. Since the age of 13, Murrell has peopled his life with creations of his own imaginings. "The Real Place" takes us inside his remarkable world, with a cast of characters that includes **Sarah Bernhardt** and **Walt Whitman**.

This short is one of eight unique film portraits created to honour the 2008 recipients of the Governor General's Performing Arts Award for Lifetime Artistic Achievement. Produced by **Bonnie Thompson** and **David Christensen** of NFB's North West Centre, "The Real Place" is a production of the National Film Board of Canada in co-operation with the National Arts Centre and the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards Foundation.

This marks the second trip to Sundance for Cam Christiansen, whose animated short "I Have Seen the Future" was selected to the festival's International Short Film category last year, as well as being chosen as one of Canada's top ten films of 2007 by the Toronto International Film Festival.

It's also the second Sundance honour in as many weeks for the NFB, whose feature-length documentary "Nollywood Babylon" – a co-production of AM Pictures and the NFB in association with documentary – was selected for Official Competition at the Sundance Festival on December 3.

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Pyramid power

Calgary-based Pyramid Productions' new comedy lifestyle series "Man on a Mission" premieres January 19 across Canada on Men TV. Modern day playboy **Matt Embry** guides guys through his world of exclusive parties, exotic cars and gorgeous women — and shows them how to "man up." Whether you want to throw the ultimate bachelor party or take on an ultimate fighter, Matt meets the experts and puts their advice into action.

Men TV also airs "The DVD Show" from Pyramid. Each week **Jenny Steele** and her new co-host, Calgary Herald entertainment columnist **Heath McCoy**, sit down with guest critics to talk about the big releases and hidden gems on DVD and Blu-ray. The review/talk show recently celebrated 100 episodes of great movie clips, exclusive celebrity interviews and its very own "Buy, Rent, Skip" rating system. The DVD Show also airs on Toronto's Sun TV.

Work begins this month on six more episodes of "Star Crossed" for CMT. Pyramid's mash-up of guitars and movies stars premiered in November and the order for more came soon after. Pyramid crews will travel between Nashville and Hollywood as they explore the crossover of actors who play music and musicians who act.

Not only does Pyramid pay visits to country singers, the singers come to them. 2008 CCMA Male Artist of the Year **Johnny Reid** was in Pyramid's Calgary soundstages on December 10 to shoot a video for "A Woman Like You," the new single from his upcoming album, "Dance With Me." **Warren P. Sonoda** (Cooper's Camera) directed the video for Toronto production company Two Three Five Films.

Need somewhere to shoot your next video? Pyramid has 4,500 sq. ft. of studio space. Need somewhere to cut it? They can help, too! The company has just added a top-of-the-line Final Cut Pro editing suite for outside rentals, in addition to their eight existing HD Avid suites. The FCP suite features a 2.3 GHz Quad Core with 9 GB of RAM and connectivity to HDCAM, DigiBeta, Beta, DV, HDV and XDCAM decks.

Pyramid's first feature-length drama, "In a World Created By a Drunken God," won Best Actor at the 33rd annual American Indian Film Festival in San Francisco. The film's star, Edmontonian **Trevor Duplessis**, beat out two other Canadians, Adam Beach and Ron Dean Harris, for the award. The film aired on APTN in November.

MiMedia grEATing the new year

MiMedia Inc. of Calgary is pleased to report that production is underway for Season 3 of their highly successful series "Eat, Shrink & Be Merry" for Food Network Canada. They wish to pass on thanks to the wonderful Alberta crew and of course the Alberta Foundation for the Arts for their support.

In conjunction with the television series, a line of grEATing cards (humorous greeting cards with healthy recipes) will soon be launched in partnership with Hallmark Canada. Beginning next month, "grEATing" cards will be sold in over 1000 stores across Canada.

As well, Readers Digest US is now a corporate partner in the project, providing monthly columns in the world's largest food magazine – "Taste of Home."

Last, but not least, MiMedia has just completed an advertising campaign teaming up "Eat, Shrink & Be Merry" with Dempster's Bread. The national ad campaign features a 30-second TV spot that will air for six weeks through February 5 on all CanWest stations. In-store promotional materials will also appear in hundreds of grocery stores across Canada, as well as in Wal-Mart stores. Dempster's Bread has also created a recipe booklet that features "Eat, Shrink & Be Merry" on the cover, that will be distributed across Canada via CanWest newspapers.

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New X-Weighted tackling families

Thirteen families have begun their battle against the bulge in Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver as the fourth season of the Gemini-award-winning Slice documentary series "X-Weighted" gets underway. Production began December 4 on "X-Weighted: Families" and cameras will roll through to early May, capturing the toil and temptations as family members work together - and sometimes against each other - on their weight-loss journey.

"With the alarming increase in childhood obesity in Canada, the "X-Weighted" team decided it is important to tackle weight loss as a family issue this season," says executive producer **Margaret Mardirossian** of Anaïd Productions. "There is a lot to learn from delving into the lives of everyday people so we are very grateful to these families for opening their homes and lives to us and sharing their stories with our Canadian and international audiences."

Each hour of this 13-part series will focus on a different family, chronicling their gut-wrenching failures and inspiring successes on the long and often frustrating road to a healthier lifestyle.

The families were chosen after an exhaustive search in Calgary, Edmonton and Greater Vancouver. They face vastly different health and lifestyle issues, but all share a common goal to get fit together as a family unit.

Among the many stories "X-Weighted: Families" will follow are -

A mom, who grew up poor, over-compensates by stocking the house with fattening snacks, while dad tells the family to "eat their money's worth" during frequent trips to buffet restaurants. Meanwhile their 11-year-old daughter is gaining weight and quitting her physical activities.

Also, an inspiring young woman with cerebral palsy and epilepsy wants to lead a more healthy and independent lifestyle. Her family takes up the challenge with her, including mom who has an enlarged heart due to weight gain. But first all the goodies in the house have to go!

"X-Weighted: Families" is produced by Anaïd Productions in association with Canwest Broadcasting, and with the participation of the Canadian Television Fund, the Alberta Film Development Program, the Province of British Columbia Production Services Tax Credit and the Canadian Film and Video Production Tax Credit Program.

New Address for Karvonen Films

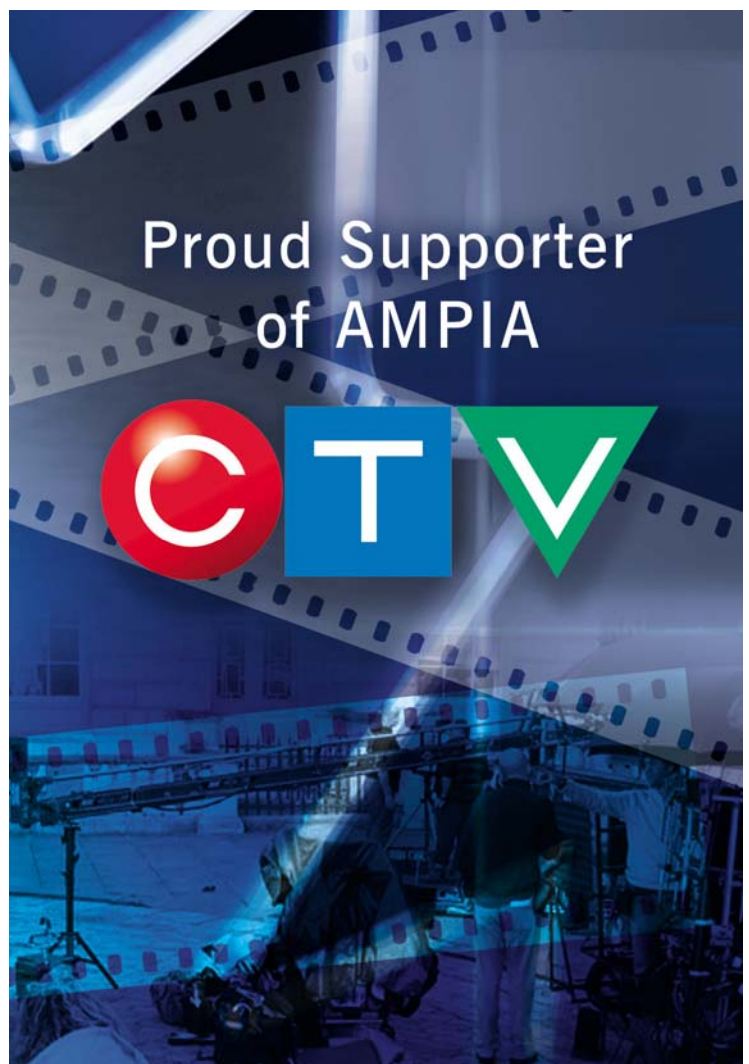
Karvonen Films Ltd. (KFL) has closed its office at 2001 – 91 Ave, Edmonton, after 14 years in that location. KFL's new address is Box 627, Boyle Alberta, T0A 0M0. The new phone number is (780) 438-7167. The email address remains films@karvonenfilms.com. Please make sure to update your address books!

While KFL is no longer in production, stock footage sales and home video sales will continue. Please check their website, found at < www.karvonenfilms.com > for more information and for updated news.

Shorts at High Performance Rodeo

Every year Bravo!FACT compiles a list of films they funded the previous year to show off at the High Performance Rodeo. This year, Calgary singer/songwriter **Danielle French** received Bravo!FACT funding (as well as Canada Council funding and a co-production residency at The Banff Centre) to produce and direct a short film to her song "Time to Kill" which appears on her 2007 CD release, Shadows. "Time to Kill" is premiering in Calgary at the 2009 High Performance Rodeo as part of this year's Bravo!FACT screening, Sunday, January 18, 2008, at 2:00pm at the Uptown Stage & Screen 612 8 Avenue SW, Calgary. Tickets are \$14 in advance or pay-what-you-can at the door (subject to availability). Advance Tickets are available through Ticketmaster (403) 299-8888 or through One Yellow Rabbit's Box Office (403) 264-3224.

Also showing the 23rd annual High Performance Rodeo, One Yellow Rabbit's International Festival of the Arts, will be two-thirds of **Corey Lee's** award winning *Kilter Trilogy* - "What You're Ready For" and "In Translation" which will be part of this special Bravo!FACT screening. The event will be hosted by **Sheri-D Wilson** and will be followed by an informal reception with Bravo!FACT executive director **Judy Gladstone**, along with other artists and filmmakers. The Kilter Trilogy has won various awards and continues to screen at festivals and programs across the country and abroad.



Jump Studios – a 2008 wrap

2008 was a busy year for the team at Jump Studios... one filled with travel, music and colour! From tennis, golf and mixed martial arts to recyclables and business solutions, the year was filled with great opportunities, fun-filled challenges and many interesting people and projects.

It all started out with a trip to Daytona, Florida, followed by Charlotte, North Carolina to shoot numerous NASCAR drivers used in show packages for the ESPN and ABC networks. It was an opportunity to mix up creativity; using a practical set-up for one shoot and a green screen for the second shoot, complete with motion control camera.

Upon their return, Jump teamed with FilmBratz Productions to fire up the streets of Edmonton with two spots for the Rexall Indy, while continuing to work on multiple commercial productions for Shaw Communications' products and services. Jump continued to bring life to the streets, creating a playful musical of recyclables, when the City of Calgary awarded them commercial production promoting their upcoming blue cart recycling program.

In the meantime, Jump was excited to learn that they were the recipients of two US Film Festival awards - one for a Shaw commercial production and the other for a Shaw commercial animation, along with two Telly awards – one for X Games urgency promos and the other for a WNBA opening tease, both produced for ESPN.

Shortly after, when the Tribeca Film Festival hit the streets of New York this spring, Jump Studios was there. They created the show

open and elements package, complete with film projecting onto buildings, for the ESPN Sports Film segment of the festival, where films such as "Zen of Bobby V" and "Redbelt" were screened.

Back at home, the Jump team, along with a generous group of vendors and a top-notch crew, donated their time and efforts to produce an event video with multiple CCMA award-winner, **Gord Bamford** for the annual Giddy-Up Gala organized by the Calgary Stampede Queens' Alumni. A big thanks goes to: **Allan Leader** of Leader Productions; **Jaime Starchuk**, **Ryan Varty** and **Jeff Bradshaw** of Zoom Communications; **Michele Merrells** and **Nevin Merrells** of MTM Equipment Rentals; Igal **Petel** and **Brad Martin** of Sonex Professional Audio Services; **Elaine Amos** and **Paulette Marck** of About Face; and PA/AD **Garth Whelen**.

One of the highlights of the year has been the purchase of SpeedGrade DI, a non-destructive colour-grading system which is very much proving to be a powerful tool. Its efficiency and ability to create a seamless workflow has really elevated the production process, as well as final finish and output. Always attempting to remain at the forefront, Jump is now in a position to complement advancing camera technology and really add extra polish to your final product.

Finishing off the year, Jump was asked to create a feature animation package to highlight the top moments in Bowl history for ABC's CapitalOne Bowl, which aired over the holidays.

As they ring in 2009, the team at Jump continues to complete a commercial and toolkit package for Shaw Communications and show packages for a new ESPN series, while adding the final touches to the City of Calgary edit... all before they get started on commercial production for the Alberta Dental Association.

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Bleeding Art wins First Prize at IAAPA Expo

Alberta-based special effects and fabrication shop Bleeding Art Industries was awarded First Place for Best Exhibit for up to 200 square feet at November's IAAPA (International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions) Expo in Orlando, Florida. Located in the First Time Exhibitor's Pavilion, Bleeding Art designed and built an ocean-themed booth showcasing their animatronics, custom fabrication and special effects work.

Bleeding Art Founder and President **Leo Wieser** stated that "the positive feedback received from people around the world was great. They loved what they saw," adding, "The company has received queries from as far away as Dubai, Russia and Australia for work on theme parks and other attractions at those locales."

Bleeding Art was founded in 2002 as a special effects provider for the motion picture and television industry and has since expanded into a custom fabrication shop doing its own prosthetics, animatronics, and other custom work for a variety of industries. It recently designed and installed an animatronic lion at the Calgary Zoo. Its work can also be seen at the Calgary International Airport, the Creative Kids Museum, Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park, on stage for this year's *A Christmas Carol* at Theatre Calgary and Alberta Ballet's *The Nutcracker*.

The IAAPA Expo is the world's largest conference and trade show for the \$24 billion amusement park and attractions industry. IAAPA indicates preliminary estimates of 24,000 people from a record 100 nations participated in this year's Expo.

NAIT's Producers Emergence Program enters its 6th year

Do you have the next great idea for a film/video project? Get real world business expertise with NAIT's 14-week Producers Emergence Program (PEP). Offered in Edmonton and Calgary, AMPIA members will receive a \$100 discount on the course fee. Classes for the program, which is being offered for the sixth consecutive year, are delivered through in-class sessions and via video conferences at both Main Campus in Edmonton and NAIT's Calgary office. The next semester of classes is scheduled for February 2 to May 6, 2009. The application deadline is January 16.

The 14-week PEP program is focused on guiding emerging independent television producers to develop and "pitch" projects to potential broadcasters, funding sources and other production partners. The television business skills and knowledge areas covered in this exciting program include project development, financing strategies, production management, legal and copyright issues and marketing, interaction with experts in various areas of the industry through both in-class and via video conferences will be a dynamic part of this program. They will address co-production, distribution, all phases of the production life cycle and the necessary relationships with the various unions, guilds and associations upon which any successful production is dependent.

Admission will be based on a project proposal assessment and a personal interview. Interested? Contact **Cheryl Dalmer** via email at <cheryld@nait.ca> or by telephone at (780) 378.5280.



WOMEN IN FILM & TELEVISION ALBERTA

Although a few months early of their 10th Anniversary, WIFTA combined their celebration with a guest speaker, special guests and an unveiling of their new logo (pictured above) on November 22. The evening included "A Conversation with **Stephanie Morgenstern**," sponsored by Creative Women Workshops Association, and moderated by **Carol Whiteman**, co-creator and producer of the Women In The Director's Chair Workshop. As well as being WIDC alumni, Stephanie is co-creator and co-writer of the hit CTV/CBS series "Flashpoint," among several producing, directing, writing and performing accomplishments. Sharing her insight, observations and variety of experiences was certainly one of the evening's highlights.

Special guests included WIFTA Past Presidents who spoke about their experience with WIFTA and what the organization means to them. WIFTA would not be celebrating a 10th anniversary without the dedication, expertise, support, leadership and friendship of these special women.

The Alberta winner of the Women in the Directors Chair scholarship sponsored by WIFTA and Panacea was also announced at the event. **Dominique Keller** was on hand to accept her \$1,000.00 WIDIC scholarship. Congratulations.



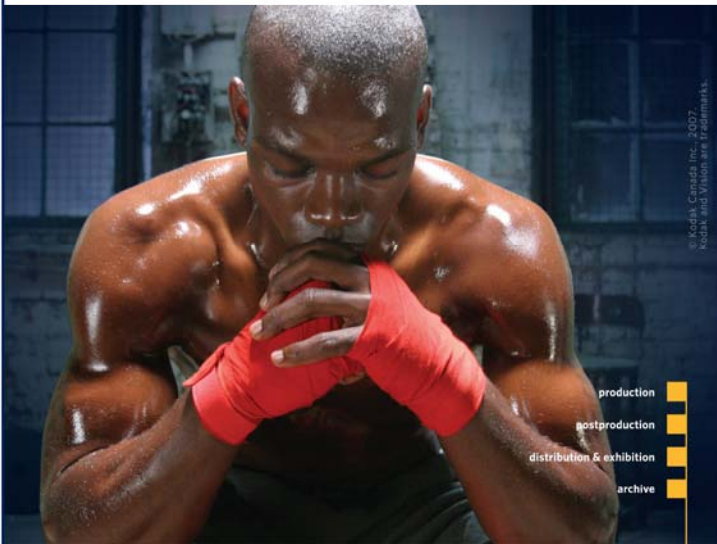
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Calendar of Events

BNMI: Women in the Director's Chair Workshop

1 800 565-9989 Jan. 16 – Feb. 1

Banff World Television Festival kick-off rate deadline

(403) 678-1216 January 28

Banff World Television Festival entry deadlines

(403) 678-1216 Early Bird: February 2
Final: February 16

Alberta Student Film Festival entry deadlines

(780) 481-3147 Regular: February 9
Late: February 23

The Reel Fun Film Festival (Calgary)

(403) 275-9373 February 12 – 23

BNMI Co-production Residency: Almost Perfect

1 800 565-9989 June 4 - July 4, 2009
Application deadline: February 13, 2009

The 81st Academy Awards

(310) 247-3000 February 22

CanWest Alberta Fund deadline

(780) 468-9304 March 15

The 2009 Alberta Film & Television Awards (Edmonton)

1 800 814-7779 May 2

Palm Beach International Film Festival deadline looms

The deadline for the 14th Annual Palm Beach International Film Festival (PBIFF), taking place April 23-30, 2009, is approaching! The late deadline is January 23, 2009. The 2009 Festival will feature numerous seminars designed to help develop independent filmmakers of today and tomorrow. In addition to screenings of independent films representing filmmakers from around the world, the Festival organizers have planned eight days and nights of seminars, workshops, endless networking opportunities and parties at exciting and innovative venues.

Yorkton Film Festival call for submissions

The Yorkton Film Festival is pleased to announce that submissions are now being accepted for the 2009 Golden Sheaf Awards competition. Canadian filmmakers, producers and distributors are invited to submit their original work to the competition for the Golden Sheaf Awards. Canadian productions 60 minutes and under that have been completed in the period between February 1, 2008 and January 31, 2009 and not have been entered in a previous Golden Sheaf Awards competition will be accepted.

The entry form, list of categories, rules and regulations can be found at www.goldensheafawards.com. Entries will be accepted until the deadline of February 1, 2009. The nominees will be announced in March 2009 and the Golden Sheaf Statues awarded at the Yorkton Short Film & Video Festival Gala on Saturday May 23, 2009 in Yorkton, Saskatchewan.

Keep it Rolling - is AMPIA's monthly newsletter, published on the first Friday of each month. All news pertinent to the film and television industry in Alberta is considered for inclusion. All information can be sent by e-mail, either to AMPIA <info@ampia.org> or to the editor, Gordon Imlach / G FORCE PUBLICITY <news@gforcepublicity.com>. For advertising inquiries please contact AMPIA, (780) 944-0707 in Edmonton, or toll free at 1 800 814-7779

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