

THE HAROLD GREENBERG FUND NEWSLETTER

Astral Media®
The Harold Greenberg Fund
Le Fonds Harold Greenberg

FALL UPDATE

1ST EDITION | OCTOBER ISSUE

KUDOS

Finn on the Fly, directed by Mark Jean, captured the Audience Award for Best Feature Film at the *Sprockets Toronto International Film Festival for Children* this past Tuesday. A heartwarming story about a Frisbee-playing dog and his young owner, the project received support from The Harold Greenberg Fund's Family Film Program both for Script Development and Equity Investment. This year's edition of Sprockets, a family-oriented film festival produced by the Toronto International Film Festival Group, showcased 70 features and shorts from 22 countries.



Sienna Film's urban dance flick *How She Move* was one of four films shortlisted for the prestigious 2009 *Shaw Rocket Prize*. The project, which received support from The Fund's Script Development and Equity Investment programs, tells the inspirational coming-of-age story of competitive step dancer, Raya Green. The other finalists were *Blaise Le Blasé* ("Fred's Head") (Spectra Animation) and *Instant Star* (Epitome.) *Sticks and Stones* (Dream Street Pictures & Cirrus Communications) was awarded the final prize.



Now in its 5th year, the Shaw Rocket Prize is the largest prize of its kind in Canada for independent Canadian producers of children's, youth and family programming in French, English and Aboriginal languages. An international jury of industry experts selects the finalists for the annual \$50,000 prize, and Canadian children pick the winner.

Congratulations to Decode Entertainment's *The Latest Buzz* and writer Brent Piaskoski, whose episode "The Gala Issue" took home the prize in the Youth category at this year's *WGC Screenwriting Awards*. The youth television series, which received support from **The Harold Greenberg Fund's Family Film Program**, follows the trials and tribulations of five grade-nine students who get the unlikely assignment of their lives when struggling magazine Teen BUZZ hires them on in an effort to reinvigorate the publication.



Mitchell Kezin's *Jingle Bell Rocks!* was one of 16 projects selected worldwide for the prestigious *IDFA Academy Summer School* Documentary Lab in Amsterdam this past June 15-20, where the film's creators were mentored by some of the best in the biz.

The project, which received funding from **The Harold Greenberg Fund's Documentary Program**, was invited to participate in an intensive six-day documentary lab intended to strengthen the narrative structure of the project through mentorship, one-on-one editing sessions, group critiques and evening screenings from seasoned professionals.

The International Documentary Festival Amsterdam (IDFA) is the grande dame of documentary film festivals. The fest takes place in late November, and throughout the rest of the year, the IDFA staff are involved in all sorts of exceptional programs and initiatives in support of the best documentary filmmaking in the world.



FUND PROJECTS:

IN PRODUCTION

Barney's Version
Beat the World
A Beginner's Guide to Endings
Oliver Sherman
The Whistle Blower

IN POST

The Bang Bang Club
Funkytown
Gunless
Red Coat Justice

IN THEATRES

Cairo Time

ON TMN

NOVEMBER

Finn on the Fly
How She Move
The Necessities of Life
(Ce qu'il faut pour vivre)
A No-Hit No-Run Summer
(Un été sans point ni coup sûr)
Passchendaele
Poor Boy's Game
Prom Wars
The Stone Angel
A Stone's Throw
The Tracey Fragments
Weirdsville

DECEMBER

Blindness
Emotional Arithmetic
Finn on the Fly
Fugitive Pieces
How She Move
It's Not Me, I Swear!
(C'est pas moi, je le jure!)
The Necessities of Life
(Ce qu'il faut pour vivre)
Normal
Nurse.Fighter.Boy
Passchendaele
Stone of Destiny
The Tracey Fragments

SHORT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Harold Greenberg Fund is now on Twitter! Follow us at http://twitter.com/HG_Fund
- Keep up-to-date on The Fund's doings by checking out our new [Facebook page](#) and becoming a Fan!
- Please note that as of April 2009, The Fund has moved to [three deadlines a year](#). Our next script development deadline is February 3, 2010.
- Back in April, The Fund announced its support for three new music-themed documentaries through a one-time only Documentary Program: *Jingle Bell Rocks*, *Talking with the Sun: The Ron Sexmith Story*, and *Music for Mandela*. To see the official press release, click [here](#).

FALL UPDATE

1ST EDITION | OCTOBER ISSUE

ONE WEEK TAKES CENTRE STAGE IN OTTAWA

On Wednesday, June 3rd, Minister James Moore of the Department of Canadian Heritage, Astral Media, Telefilm Canada, Corus Entertainment and Mongrel Media hosted a special screening and reception for the film *One Week*. Directed by Michael McGowan and supported by The Harold Greenberg Fund, *One Week* has made close to \$1.3 million at the box-office to date!

An estimated 320+ guests attended the extra-special presentation, the room filled with MPs from all political parties, ministers, senators, senior Heritage officials and stakeholders. The night was a unique opportunity to showcase Canadian film to decision makers in Ottawa, including Laureen Harper, (Prime Minister Steven Harper's wife), Justin Trudeau, Pamela Wallin, Bev Oda and Canadian Heritage policy makers. The unexpected star of the evening was "the" motorcycle featured in *One Week*.... The vintage Norton bike was front and centre on display at the venue, and everyone, including Minister Moore and Justin Trudeau, took a turn climbing on board.

John Riley, President, Astral Television Networks, congratulated director Michael McGowan and joined Minister Moore in speaking enthusiastically about the exceptional talent in this country.

The post-film reception featured food laid out as a tribute to the road trip Ben takes in the movie: salmon from B.C., pizza from College Street in Toronto, burgers modelled after Syl's in Winnipeg and for dessert...Stanley Cupcakes.

DVDs of the film were given as parting gifts and



Minister Moore sits with Michael McGowan, Director, Screenwriter, and Producer of *One Week* (Pic #1). Minister Moore speaks before the screening and is joined by John Riley, President of Astral Television Networks, and Michel Roy, Chair of Telefilm Canada (Pic#2).

many guests asked for a couple to give away to family and friends. As Minister Moore was leaving the National Gallery in Ottawa he summed up the event to his staff in one word: "AMAZING!"

Astral Media The Harold Greenberg Fund is proud to have supported both such an exceptional film and a memorable event. The Fund is also taking an active role in the promotion of Canadian film at events such as film festivals in across the country, in communities ranging from Toronto to Whitehorse, and in partnership with organizations such as Reel Canada and the First Weekend Club.

GOING WEST

BY LORI LOZINSKI

This June 21-25, I, along with four other western-based producers (Lauren Grant, Ki Wight, Dean English and Kyle Irving), gathered in Whistler for the third edition of the highly-anticipated **CFC Go West Lab**. Presented by the Whistler Film Festival, in association with **Astral Media The Harold Greenberg Fund**, BC Film and Telefilm Canada, the lab is an intensive five-day business and marketplace immersion experience.

And intense it was! The program took place in a spectacular hotel nestled amidst stunning scenery, and the days were jam-packed from early morning until late at night with daily roundtables, pitching sessions, one-on-ones, and of course, a healthy dose of Whistler cuisine and nightlife. I spent five exhausting yet exhilarating days with seven U.S. experts and two marketplace facilitators, whose creative, sales and marketing advice will surely contribute to the success of my feature film: *Jenny Two Bears*. Written by Shannon Masters, the feature-length comedy is based on a short story by award-winning novelist Joseph Boyden and is about the lead singer of a 'past-it' native female punk band who will do anything to keep her band together and make it big. The script received support from The Harold Greenberg Fund's Script Development Program, in addition to BC Film, Corus Entertainment and Telefilm Canada. Production is slated for summer 2010.

Now armed with new relationships and an enhanced international perspective that is also focused and personal, I feel extremely optimistic about the success of my film. The CFC Go West Lab is unique in its mandate to connect U.S. executives with western-based producers in order to strengthen each project's chances for investment, and I want to express a heartfelt thanks to the guests, mentors, producers and sponsors for creating and supporting such a valuable and essential initiative.

SCRIPT PROGRAM SUPPORTS 21 NEW PROJECTS

Astral Media The Harold Greenberg Fund is pleased to announce its latest round of funding for 21 new and ongoing projects through its Script Development Program.

Choosing from a nearly-record 118 applications, the Fund's latest round of supported scripts is a varied and eclectic mix of everything from sweeping historical epic to fantastical animation to zany teen comedy.

"The variety and scope of this most recent round of projects is a strong indicator of the breadth of imagination that exists among our Canadian screenwriting talent," said John Galway, President, English-Language Program, Astral Media The Harold Greenberg Fund. "I think the interesting mix and range of subject matter will be a great showcase for what our homegrown writers can do."

Among the latest group of projects is *High Alert*, written by Ed Riche and Rick Mercer, to be directed by Academy Award®-nominated filmmaker Norman Jewison. Produced by Sandra Cunningham, the comedy chronicles the exploits of a group of multi-ethnic Canadian acrobats who are mistaken for terrorists when they arrive on an American island to perform at July 4th celebrations.

Projects approved this quarter include:

SCRIPT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

STORY OPTIONING

The Book of Negroes
Conquering Lion Pictures Inc.

The Last Crossing
Mind's Eye Development Inc.
Screenwriter: Rob King

The Stowaway
Gen One Films Inc. & 7143729 Canada Inc.
Screenwriter: Anmarie Morais

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

■ SCRIPT PROGRAM SUPPORTS 21 NEW PROJECTS (CONTINUED)

FIRST DRAFT

Vulnerable
Cité-Amérique Inc.
Screenwriter: Paul Quarrington

The Hanging of Angelique
Slate Development Ltd.
Screenwriter: Annmarie Morais

SECOND DRAFT

Dead Tired
Productions The Gates Inc.
Screenwriter: Geoffrey Uloth & Jean-François Da
Sylva-La Rue

The White Circus
Silo Corporation
Screenwriter: Chris Lavis & Maciek Sczcerbowski

Portraits of You and Me
Holiday Pictures Ltd. & Fire Horse Productions Ltd.
Screenwriter: Julia Kwan

The Sons of the Hammer
Darius Films Inc.
Screenwriter: Jonathan Sobol

A Bright Tragic Thing
Elyse Friedman & Randall Cole
Screenwriter: Elyse Friedman & Randall Cole

High Alert
High Alert Productions Inc.
Screenwriter: Ed Riche & Rick Mercer

Newfoundland Beat Down
Pope Productions Ltd.
Screenwriter: Deanne Foley & Iain MacLeod

Lucky Ho
Foundation Features Inc.
Screenwriter: Rebecca Russell

Prom Knurd
APB Pictures Inc.
Screenwriter: Matt Huether & Cole Bastedo

FINAL DRAFT

The Handler
Corvid Pictures Inc.
Screenwriter: Craig David Wallace & Charles Picco

Home Again
Hungry Eyes Film & Television Inc.
Screenwriter: Jennifer Holness & Sudz Sutherland

Wild Dogs
The Film Farm
Screenwriter: Susan Shipton

Jenny Two Bears
Violator Films Inc.
Screenwriter: Shannon Masters

POLISH & PACKAGING

Medieval: Knights of the Living Dead
Amaze Film + Television Inc.
Screenwriter: Alex Epstein & Dan Signer

Journey to the Surface of the Earth
The Film Farm
Screenwriter: Peter Wellington

Oliver Sherman
The Film Works Ltd.
Screenwriter: Ryan Redford

The Script Development Program was created to assist in the development of quality Canadian feature film scripts. The program receives a yearly contribution of \$1.3 million from Astral Media's The Movie Network.

The script development applications are reviewed each quarter by the English-Language Committee of Astral Media The Harold Greenberg Fund, which includes Suzette Couture, Damon D'Oliveira, Melanie Friesen, John Galway, Shane Kinnear, Bryn Matthews and Kevin Wright.