



2024 Nova Scotia Content Market

Hosted by Screen Nova Scotia, the 8th annual Nova Scotia Content Market is an industry event for emerging and established producers in Nova Scotia to meet with influential Canadian, U.S. and international broadcasters, distributors, sales agents, financiers, and studio executives. This market provides Nova Scotia producers with direct access to top industry decision-makers at the national and international levels, across all genres.

Profiles and bios of participating delegates are listed in alphabetical order by company name - clicking the names of the delegates below will link you directly to their section.

Please read carefully before making your meeting selections.

I. Attending Delegates

IN-PERSON: These 25 delegates are attending the in-person market on October 16th

- [Bell Fibe TV1: Paul Gardner, Senior Producer](#)
- [Bell Media: Adam Feigan, Development Executive, Scripted, Original Programming](#)
- [Bell Media : Heather Williamson, Senior Development & Production Executive, Original Programming, Factual & Reality](#)
- [Blue Ant Media: Sam Linton, VP, Production & Development, Global Media](#)
- [CBC Unscripted / Docs: Nic Meloney, Executive in Charge of Production](#)
- [Cineflix Rights: Giuliana Benvenuto, Senior Manager, Acquisitions, North America](#)
- [Corus Entertainment: Dora Fong, Production Executive, Original Programming](#)
- [The Coven: Anelle Dehghani, Head of Sales](#)
- [Elevation Pictures: Michael O'Leary, Head of Marketing and Creative](#)
- [Epic Pictures: Tata Pemova, Senior Manager, Sales](#)
- [FOX Entertainment Global / Neshama Entertainment: Brook Peters, SVP Sales & Business Development](#)
- [Game Theory Films: Hilary Hart, Co-President](#)
- [levelFILM: Olivier Gauthier-Mercier, VP, Distribution](#)
- [Lionsgate Canada: Andrew Kelly, VP, Scripted Development](#)
- [Lionsgate Canada: Christine Diakos, VP, Unscripted Programming](#)
- [Mongrel Media: Alison Inkpen](#)
- [Muse Entertainment: Jesse Prupas, SVP, Scripted](#)
- [Paramount+ Canada and Pluto TV, Paramount Global: Vanessa Case, VP, Content](#)
- [Photon Films: Sardé Hardie, Director, Sales & Acquisitions](#)
- [Quiver Distribution: Berry Meyerowitz, Co-Founder](#)
- [Raven Banner Entertainment: Megan St-Pierre, Manager](#)



- [Super Channel: Kim Ball, Chief Content & Communications Officer](#)
- [Visit Films: Sophie Gilbert, Acquisitions](#)
- [Vortex Media: Matt Orenstein, Vice President, Acquisitions & Strategy](#)
- [VVS Films: Claire Peace-McConnell, Head of Canadian Content Development](#)

VIRTUAL: These 30 delegates are attending the virtual market on October 15th

- [A+E Networks: Michael Gelman, Vice President, Acquisitions & Co-Productions](#)
- [AMI: Karen McGee, Content Development - Eastern Canada](#)
- [APTN: Danelle Granger, Executive in Charge of Development & Scripted Production](#)
- [APTN: Sylvain Lévesque, Executive in Charge of Documentary Series & French Language Content](#)
- [Attraction Distribution: Xiaojuan Zhou, President](#)
- [Bankside Films: Richard Priseman, Acquisitions & Development Executive; and Abdi Ali, Acquisitions and Development Manager \(taking meetings together\)](#)
- [Blue Fox Entertainment: Kalani Dreimanis, VP, International Sales](#)
- [Blue Ice Docs: Robin Smith, CEO](#)
- [CBC Comedy: Jennifer Shin, Director of Development, Comedy; and Sarah Quan, Executive in Charge of Development, Comedy \(taking meetings together\)](#)
- [CBC Drama: Lea Marin, Director of Development, Drama](#)
- [CBC Films: Gosia Kamela, Head of CBC Films](#)
- [CBC Unscripted: Jessica Schmiedchen, Director of Development, Unscripted Content](#)
- [Cineflix Productions: Tanya Blake, Executive Producer](#)
- [The Film Collaborative: Orly Ravid, Founder & Co-Executive Director; and David Averbach, Creative Director & Director of Digital Distribution \(taking meetings together\)](#)
- [Film Seekers UK: Caroline Couret-Delègue, Managing Director](#)
- [IFC Films | RLJE | Shudder: Rachael Labes, Coordinator, Acquisitions & Productions](#)
- [K5 Films: Oda Schaefer, Partner, Production & Acquisitions](#)
- [LevelK: Mark Tucker, Acquisitions & Development](#)
- [Mongrel Media: Marko Orlic, Director, Acquisitions & Sales](#)
- [National Geographic: Andre Gary, Director, Documentary Films; and Marja Diaz, Senior Manager, Documentary Films \(taking meetings together\)](#)
- [Netflix Canada: Chris Bell, Manager, Content](#)
- [OUTtv: Lauren Whitelaw, Head of Programming](#)
- [Ritual Films: William Gagnon, Head of Sales; and Olivia Courchesne, Head of Acquisitions \(taking meetings together\)](#)
- [Seven One Studios International: Laura Beetz, Scripted Acquisitions Manager](#)
- [TIME Studio: Kyle Hentschel, Director of Development](#)



ADDITIONAL MEETINGS: Requesting meetings with these delegates will **not count** towards your total meeting requests - once requested, they will be automatically booked for you. This is a great way to connect with our local funders and financiers who will be available during the in-person market on October 16th.

- Canada Media Fund: Susy MacGillivray, Business Analyst, CMF Program Administration
- National Bank of Canada: Lucie Marion, Manager, Creative Industries Group
- RBC - Royal Bank of Canada: Megan MacDonald-Allen, Relationship Manager, Commercial Financial Services - Media & Entertainment
- Telefilm Canada: Lori McCurdy, Feature Film Executive - Atlantic Region

II. Company Profiles & Bios

A+E Networks: Michael Gelman - Vice President, Acquisitions & Co-Productions

Bio: Michael Gelman is Vice President of Acquisitions & Co-Productions at A+E Networks and leads content strategy for A+E's Home.Made.Nation lifestyle content.

Michael is focused on identifying and negotiating non-fiction content deals across the A+E Networks portfolio. He has also served as an executive producer on series including Killer Cases, Murder at the Motel and Butchers of the Bayou.

Michael joined A+E Networks in 2014. Prior to joining A+E he worked in content strategy at Viacom. He received a BA from Tufts University and a MS from Boston University.

Company Profile: A+E is a global content company comprised of some of the most popular and culturally relevant brands in media, including A&E, Lifetime, The HISTORY Channel, LMN, FYI, and VICE TV. A+E Networks' portfolio extends across platforms and genres with a scripted production division, A+E Studios; unscripted production teams, A+E Factual Studios and independent film unit, A&E IndieFilms.

A+E's Global Content Sales and International teams extend the breadth of A+E's vast and quality library of content across the entire multiplatform ecosystem, from Owned and Operated SVODs; to the AVOD and FAST Channel universe and through compelling podcasts; and A+E International includes A+E-branded channels around the world, content licensing; and a prolific scripted/unscripted co-production business. A+E's content reaches more than 414 million households in 200 territories in 40 languages.

AMI: Karen McGee, Content Development - Eastern Canada

Bio: Karen joined AMI-tv in 2012 overseeing the Ottawa office. She is now responsible for



content development for Canada East and has developed several shows for AMI including Mind Your Own Business, The Squeaky Wheel, and the Nova Scotia produced comedy Low Vision Moments. Karen is responsible for screening pitches, show development, and ensuring that all content meets AMI's standard bearing qualities with respect to disability storytelling and inclusivity in all areas of original production – both on camera and behind the scenes.

Karen has over 30 years of production experience, having previously worked at Rogers TV and Ross Video.

Company Profile: AMI is a media company that entertains, informs and empowers Canadians with disabilities through three broadcast services that are a part of all basic cable and satellite packages— AMI-tv and AMI-audio in English and AMI-télé in French — and streaming platform AMI+. Our vision is to establish AMI as a leader in the offering of accessible content, providing a voice for Canadians with disabilities through authentic storytelling, representation and positive portrayal. To learn more visit AMI.ca and AMItele.ca.

Looking For: We are looking for content that has disability representation in front of and behind the camera and are accepting pitches for Factual Series and Scripted Series.

APTN: Danelle Granger, Executive in Charge of Development and Scripted Production

Bio: Based out of Treaty 1 territory, Danelle Granger is proud to be reclaiming and reconnecting to her Métis roots. She began her career in the broadcasting industry upon graduating from the Creative Communications program at Red River College in Winnipeg, Man. There, she majored in journalism while focusing on developing her production skills. Danelle was inspired to pursue journalism and production after seeing the documentary Food, Inc. She continues to be motivated by the passion of those involved in the industry and their commitment to telling the stories that need to be heard. She brings this motivation with her to all of her work. Danelle joined APTN in 2020 as the programming coordinator for the Central Region. In 2022, she took on the title of development and scripted production executive. Danelle is excited to continue working with emerging and established producers to bring Indigenous content to screens across Turtle Island.

Company Profile: APTN is sharing our Peoples' journey, celebrating our cultures, inspiring our children and honouring the wisdom of our Elders. APTN launched in 1999 as the first national Indigenous broadcaster in the world. Since then, the network has become a global leader in programming that celebrates the rich diversity of Indigenous Peoples across Turtle Island and beyond.

Looking For:



- Production ready shows for our CMF IP Production RFP that comes out early winter.
- CMF IP development show ideas with a focus on incorporating language into the show.
- Any unscripted show idea with a language focus, as we now have our new language channel.
- Pre-school aged content focusing on language revitalization and teaching.

APTN: Sylvain Lévesque, Executive in Charge of Documentary Series and French Language Content

Bio: Sylvain Lévesque joined APTN’s programming department in 2008, bringing with him unparalleled experience in Indigenous film and television production. In addition to having more than 30 years of experience in the industry, Sylvain holds a master’s degree in communications, a bachelor’s degree in film studies and a bachelor’s degree in corporate copywriting and public relations. Sylvain’s career in film began in the international relations sector at Telefilm Canada, where he was responsible for promoting Canadian content through international film festivals. He has also worked in communications at the National Film Board of Canada and for Cinéac Cinema Agency.

In 2020, Sylvain became manager of programming for the Eastern Region, a position he previously held on an interim basis in 2012 and 2016. In 2022, he took on the title of documentary and French content executive. With his significant professional experience and his passion for sharing authentic stories, Sylvain has helped redefine the broadcasting industry. He is so excited to continue promoting educational and inspiring Indigenous content through his new role.

Company Profile: APTN launched in 1999 as the first national Indigenous broadcaster in the world. Since then, the network has become a global leader in programming that celebrates the rich diversity of Indigenous Peoples across Turtle Island and beyond. A respected charitable broadcaster, APTN shares authentic stories to Canadian households through basic channel packages via two distinct HD channels: APTN (English and French language programming) and APTN Languages (Indigenous language programming).

APTN proudly features over 80% Canadian content and inspires audiences via multiple platforms, including its new Indigenous-focused streaming service, APTN lumi.

Attraction Distribution: Xiaojuan Zhou, President

Bio: As President of Attraction Distribution, Xiaojuan Zhou oversees all activities for the



company, including development, acquisitions, marketing, sales, and administration. Xiaojuan brings to Attraction three decades of experience and expertise in film and TV distribution. Over the years, she has fostered long term relationships with producers around the world and has licensed hundreds of movies and episodes to either major studios or smallest (but very innovative) distributors, broadcasters, and streamers. Company hits include Rooster Doodle Doo (Universal Pictures), Christmas Story (sold out worldwide), Dragon (NBC network), The Parents (TVP, Canal+ etc), 13 Commandments (Netflix Global), C.R.A.Z.Y. (HBO Max), among many others.

Prior To Attraction, Xiaojuan held different positions at Delphis Films, La Fête, China Film Group (acquisitions and co-production) and owned her private consulting firm. She obtained two master's degrees in China and Canada, was trained in cinema management by Village Roadshow in Melbourne, Australia and has completed a summer course at Harvard. She has served as a juror and/or panelist at various film festivals or forums.

Company Profile: Founded in 2003 and run by industry veterans, Attraction Distribution is a Montreal-based sales and distribution company engaged in the co-financing, promotion and all rights distribution of motion pictures and episodic content that marries quality with high entertainment value for the global market. Part of the Attraction group that houses a number of high profile fiction and nonfiction producers. More info: www.attractiondistribution.ca

Bell Fibe TV1: Paul Gardner, Senior Producer

Bio: Paul Gardner is an award-winning producer with over 25 years experience developing creative content in the media industry. In his current position as Senior Producer for Bell Fibe TV1, Paul has overseen the development and production of an ambitious slate of hundreds of original titles for Fibe TV1's broadcast Channel, VOD, APP and Mobile content.

Previous to his work with Bell, Paul spent a decade working in Children and Youth programming as a Senior Producer for TVO Kids and Kids CBC, as well as establishing a freelance career on a wide range of projects from doc series to music videos, commercials and animation.

Company Profile: Fibe TV1 is one of Canada's leading community TV channels, operating exclusively under Bell Canada. Viewers get to enjoy 100% original content told by those by the community and for the community.

As the home to multiple award-winning and nominated shows, TV1 provides an environment for creators to flourish and succeed while amplifying their unique

stories. Available commercial free on demand to all Bell Fibe TV subscribers on channel



1 and the Fibe TV app.

TV1 gives a unique look at the people and places that shape our communities. As a result, smaller regions are given the spotlight, allowing their creative voices to be heard and for their stories to be seen. This also gives the opportunity for the shows to be produced by local and passionate visionaries with the goal of showcasing communities to a wider audience.

Looking For: TV1 is looking for short form tv series that reflect their local community. We accept unscripted and scripted content fiction and non-fiction with a focus on telling local stories.

Bankside Films: Richard Priseman, Acquisitions & Development Executive; and Abdi Ali Acquisitions and Development Manager

Abdi Bio: Graduated from Regents University London - Film & Screen. Abdi began his film career as a sales team assistant at Mister Smith Entertainment, film and literary assistant at Michelle Kass Associates and development team assistant at Wildgaze Films. Throughout his career, Abdi has had a long and keen interest in the acquisitions and development side of the film industry and joined Bankside Films in the summer of 2020. He is currently the Acquisitions and Development Manager at Bankside Films. He is the primary point of contact for development, production and acquisitions.

Richard Bio: After spending four years in film accounting, Richard studied for an MA in Producing at the National Film and Television School. Following this he worked for a year in a small television production company, before joining Bankside Films at the end of 2022, where he is currently the Acquisitions and Development Executive.

Company Profile: Founded in 2007, Bankside Films is a leading international sales company providing worldwide distribution, executive producing, and financing services to independent producers globally. In 2023 Bankside took Danny and Michael Philippou's TALK TO ME to Sundance where it sold domestically to A24 and broke A24's records for a box office debut release. Other titles include INSIDE starring Willem Dafoe which sold globally to Focus, and Moin Hussain's SKY PEALS, which premiered in Venice.

Looking For: Bankside is looking for bold and distinctive stories which have the potential for international theatrical release. These can be across any genre, and come from established filmmakers or those looking to make their debut. Commonly boarding at script stage but also with the ability to board completed films, Bankside believes there is no one size fits all approach and tailor the strategy on each film accordingly.



Bell Media: Adam Feigan, Development Executive, Scripted, Original Programming

Bio: As a Development Executive for Bell Media, Adam works with independent production partners, writers, and creatives on the development of new scripted projects for Bell Media's Original Programming slate. Prior to Bell Media, he served as the Development Executive at Incendo Media, overseeing the creation of scripted television series and movies. He was also part of the development team at marblemmedia, working across kids', factual, and scripted programming. As a broadcaster, Adam spent time at Shaw Media in their Original Drama Content department and at the CBC as Executive in Charge of Drama Development. He began his broadcasting career as a Network Programmer at Canwest, working across E! and Global Television.

By championing diversity and distinct talent, Adam has built strong relationships with a range of writers, directors, and creatives across the country. He is a dedicated advocate for mentorship and has served as an industry mentor with the CFC, APA, Banff World Media Festival, and The Reel World Film Festival.

Company Profile: Bell Media is Canada's leading media and entertainment company with a portfolio of assets in premium video, audio, out-of-home advertising, and digital media. This includes Canada's most-watched television network, CTV; the largest Canadian-owned video streamer, Crave, with a premium add-on to include STARZ; a powerful suite of specialty channels; the most-trusted news brand, CTV News; Canada's cross-platform sports leaders, TSN and RDS; leading out-of-home advertising network, Astral; Québec's fast-growing conventional French-language network, Noovo; the country's leading radio and podcast app, iHeartRadio Canada; and a range of award-winning original productions, brands, and services. As a content leader and partner in Sphere Media, Montréal's Grande Studios, and Dome Productions, one of North America's leading production facilities providers, Bell Media is committed to keeping Canadians entertained and informed.

About Crave: Delivering more Oscar-nominated and Emmy Award-winning programming than any other service, Crave is Canada's prestige entertainment offering, with HBO Originals, Max Originals, STARZ, Hollywood-hit movies, is the exclusive Canadian streaming home of FRIENDS, and boasts a robust slate of English and French original series. Crave is a major supporter of Canada's production industry, helping to fund numerous film projects, and features acclaimed selections from some of Canada's prestigious film festivals including Toronto International Film Festival, Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival, HOT DOCS, ImagineNATIVE, and Inside Out Film Festival.

Crave is a bilingual TV and streaming service with thousands of hours of exclusive French-language content. Crave is available directly to all Canadians with access to the Internet at Crave.ca, via iOS and Android, and other platforms such as Amazon Fire TV, Amazon Prime Video Channels, Android TV, Apple TV, Chromecast, select LG Smart TVs, PlayStation, Roku, select Samsung Smart TVs, and Xbox One. It's also available through



participating service providers across ten, 24-hour High Definition linear and on demand channels. Crave is from Bell Media, Canada's leading content company, providing Canada's most-watched and most-acclaimed television programming on network, specialty, pay and digital platforms. Visit our website at Crave.ca.

Bell Media: Heather Williamson, Senior Development & Production Executive, Original Programming, Factual & Reality

Bio: As Senior Development and Production Executive for Bell Media's Original Programming, Factual and Reality, Heather Williamson finds high stakes factual series across all Bell Media services and oversees a development and production slate that includes upcoming shows, such as MARK MCKINNEY NEEDS A HOBBY and DRAG BRUNCH SAVED MY LIFE, and hit original series HIGHWAY THRU HELL and UNDERGROUND RAILROAD: SECRET HISTORY, as well as Crave Originals KINGS OF COKE, BILLIONAIRE MURDERS and OPTIMIST'S GUIDE TO THE PLANET WITH NIKOLAJ COSTER-WALDAU. Past projects include JADE FEVER, LAST STOP GARAGE, MIGHTY CRUISE SHIPS, WILD BEAR RESCUE, DR. KERI PRAIRIE VET, and OSCAR PETERSON: BLACK & WHITE.

Williamson works closely with producers, advising them on how to best tailor their projects to suit Bell Media's audience and scheduling needs for both broadcast and digital formats.

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International Film Festival, HOT DOCS, ImagineNATIVE, and Inside Out Film Festival.

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Blue Fox Entertainment: Kalani Dreimanis, VP, International Sales

Bio: Kalani Dreimanis is Vice President, International Sales at Blue Fox Entertainment, where she represents such titles as Uproar and Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe, both official selection titles at the Toronto International Film Festival. Hailing from Toronto, Kalani has more than 10 years experience in the independent film world, and most recently served as Director of International Sales at Epic Pictures Group, where she oversaw global sales on worldwide hits such as Extra Ordinary, Sea Fever, and The Cellar, and served as executive producer on Dark Nature, and Polaris. Prior to Epic, Kalani held the position of Manager, International Sales at Myriad Pictures. She began her career in Hollywood working in development and production at Straight Up Films.

Company Profile: BLUE FOX ENTERTAINMENT is a global film sales, domestic distribution, and financing company specializing in connecting filmmakers to audiences and buyers around the world. The company has a deep history in film production, marketing, finance, sales, and distribution. Blue Fox delivers movies to the domestic and international markets providing content across all media platforms, including Theatrical, On Demand, DVD, and Television.

Blue Fox's notable past and upcoming releases included MENDING THE LINE, starring Brian Cox and Sinqua Wells, ARISTOTLE & DANTE DISCOVER THE SECRETS OF THE UNIVERSE, produced by Lin-Manuel Miranda, and the family adventure THE WOLF AND THE LION.

Blue Ant Media: Sam Linton, VP, Production & Development, Global Media

Bio: Sam Linton brings over 30 years of production expertise to the media company's channel brands. Based in Canada, Sam leads commissioning for Blue Ant Media's suite of specialty television channels and global FAST (free, ad-supported streaming TV)



channels, including: Cottage Life, T+E, Makeful, Smithsonian Channel, BBC First, BBC Earth, HauntTV, Total Crime, Homeful, Love Pets and Declassified. In her role, Sam oversees commissioning and production of original series and specials such as Haunted Hospitals, History's Most Haunted, A Secret to Die For, Eli Roth Presents: A Ghost Ruined my Life, History by the Numbers, Mysteries from Above, and Life Below Zero: Canada.

Sam has written, produced and directed many series and specials. Her former roles include Director of Programming for Discovery Canada and Animal Planet, in addition to SVP of Factual for Cineflix Productions where she executive produced series such as May Day, Final 24, Mega Moves and Urban Legends. Sam also held leadership roles at History Television as Acting Head of Factual Content and RTR Media as VP and Executive Producer for RTR Media. Sam is also committed to mentoring and training the next generation of storytellers through her work on the Board of WIFT-T and as an advisor to the Broadcasting Program at Centennial College.

Company Profile: Blue Ant Media is a privately held, international production studio and rights business and channel operator. The company's studio creates and distributes a premium slate of programming, in all content genres, for streaming and broadcasting platforms around the world. Blue Ant Media also operates free streaming and pay TV channels under several media brands internationally, including Love Nature, Cottage Life, Smithsonian Channel Canada, BBC Earth Canada, HauntTV, Homeful, Drag Race Universe, Total Crime, Declassified, Love Pets and Love Drama. Blue Ant Media is headquartered in Toronto, with six international offices in Los Angeles, New York, Singapore, London, Washington and Sydney.

Blue Ice Docs: Robin Smith, CEO

Bio: Robin Smith is currently the CEO of Blue Ice Docs Inc. – a distribution and equity funding company dedicated to funding, acquiring and distributing the best non-fiction work from around the world. Robin is also the Director of Film Programming for the Whistler Film Festival.

Robin brings a strong background of over 28 years of film, video and arts-related work to the marketplace having worked at a variety of distribution companies including The National Film Board of Canada, Alliance Films, Lions Gate Film Entertainment, Seville Pictures, Capri Releasing and levelFILM. Robin has recently also been brought aboard to advise a variety of companies such as the Vancouver International Film Festival and Vortex Media. Robin also programmed the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema for its first 10 years of operation.

Notable releases managed and navigated by Robin include such hits as CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON, ALL ABOUT MY MOTHER, AWAY FROM HER, CAVE OF FORGOTTEN DREAMS, BLACKFISH, UP THE YANGTZE and KEDI.



Robin has also acted as Executive Producer on a variety of award-winning documentaries including the Oscar-nominated ABACUS: SMALL ENOUGH TO JAIL (dir: Steve James), the Emmy-Award winning SOLITARY (dir: Kristi Jacobson), the Emmy-Award winning ADVOCATE (dir: Rachel Leah Jones, Philippe Bellaiche), the commercial hit A GLITCH IN THE MATRIX (dir: Rodney Asher), the 2024 SXSW documentary THE HOBBY (dir: Simon Ennis) and YOUR TOMORROW (dir: Ali Weinstein) that is premiering at TIFF 2024.

Company Profile: Blue Ice Docs is an independent film distribution company focused purely on non-fiction features. We acquire, fund and develop a wide variety of non-fiction projects from around the world.

Founded in 2014 in partnership between Robin Smith, president of KinoSmith and Neil Tabatznik of the Blue Ice Group, Blue Ice Docs intends to use the expertise and skills of both organizations to build a singular, world-leading documentary distribution entity that will take non-fiction product across all media platforms within Canada and beyond.

CBC Comedy: Jennifer Shin, Director of Development, Comedy; and Sarah Quan, Executive in Charge of Development, Comedy

Jennifer Shin Bio: Jennifer Shin currently serves as Director of Development, Comedy, for the CBC, where she is responsible for overseeing a dynamic and diverse scripted comedy slate for the network, and working with the best emerging and established Canadian talent. Jennifer brings over 15 years of experience in the industry as an award-winning film and television producer before joining CBC. Her experience includes, working as VP of Feature Films for First Generation Films where she oversaw the scripted development and production of its slate, and Head of Content at Banger Films where she launched a scripted division. Some of her past credits include, Patricia

Jennifer is an alumna of the Canadian Film Centre's Producer Lab and started her broadcasting career in entertainment journalism working on acclaimed late night shows as CBC's George Stroumboulopoulos Tonight/The Hour where she worked as producer.

Jennifer is also an advocate for change within the industry, and has sat on numerous boards and groups committed to equity, diversity, inclusion and the amplification of underrepresented voices.

Presently, she sits on the Foundation board of WIFT-T (Women in Film & Television Toronto), and was previously the Co-Chair of the Reel Asian Film Festival and sat on the BANFF Television & Media's Content Advisory Board.

Sarah Quan Bio: As Executive in Charge of Development for CBC Comedy, Sarah is



responsible for developing high quality, impactful original scripted comedy series for the network's development slate. Prior to joining CBC, she served as Creative Executive at Northwood Entertainment (Anne With An E, The Grizzlies) where she managed their slate of television and feature film projects in development and production. Sarah started her career as a coordinator for independent film and digital series (How to Buy a Baby, Detention Adventure, We are Savvy). She also volunteers on a number of initiatives including co-facilitating AccessCBC, an initiative for creators with disabilities and as an advocate for the Academy Executive Residency Program.

As an award-winning producer and creative executive, Sarah is dedicated to discovering and nurturing underrepresented voices with fresh perspectives and producing work that changes culture and explores stories that have yet to be told.

Company Profile: We are a globally recognized voice in comedy, home to much-loved series that have won acclaim in Canada and around the world (Sort Of, Son of a Critch, Run The Burbs, Schitt's Creek, Workin' Moms, Kim's Convenience, Baroness Von Sketch Show, This Hour Has 22 Minutes, TallBoyz). If you would like to pitch us, we recommend familiarizing yourself with our shows (available on our streaming platform, CBC GEM) to get a better sense of the range of our programming.

We work alongside independent producers and creators across Canada, ensuring our country is reflected in the programming we offer. Representation matters to us, and we stand firm in our commitment to telling stories about, and by, all Canadians. It is important that we share stories that reflect the realities of Canadians, including and especially prioritizing telling diverse stories by diverse communities. We are also actively looking for regional representation across the country that feels authentic to the storytelling. We want high-impact, original, buzzworthy programming.

Our core programming needs are for half-hour comedies (22 minutes) that appeal to a wide range of Canadians with a target demographic of 30-49, and can air on the CBC linear service between the hours of 8:00 pm-10:00 pm and stream on CBC Gem.

We look for ongoing series that are character-driven, with a distinct point-of-view and a clear identity. We are primarily looking for series that are episodic with lightly serialized arcs. Comedy should be in the driver's seat: comedy-forward/hard comedy is our sweet spot. When we're assessing pitches we look for elements an audience can connect with, and (crucially) a strong and unique comedic voice. In addition to ongoing scripted comedies, we are also open to receiving pitches for sketch-comedy series. Before pitching CBC Comedy, please visit:

<https://www.cbc.ca/independentproducers/genres/comedy/comedy>



CBC Drama: Lea Marin, Director of Development, Drama

Bio: Lea Marin is the Director of Development, Drama, for the CBC, and is responsible for driving and overseeing the quality and diversity of the drama development slate including the recently launched productions, Wild Cards and Allegiance. A graduate of the Canadian Film Centre's Producers' Lab, prior to joining the CBC, Lea was a Senior Producer with the National Film Board of Canada where she developed and produced several documentaries and interactive projects. Some of her credits include Ever Deadly, co-created by Tanya Tagaq & Chelsea McMullan, Charles Officer's Unarmed Verses, and Astra Taylor's What Is Democracy?.

Company Profile: We are home to some of Canada's longest-running and award-winning original dramas (The Porter, BlackBerry, Coroner, SkyMed, Heartland and Murdoch Mysteries) and we take pride in our contribution to the Canadian television landscape. We work alongside independent producers and creators across Canada, ensuring our country is reflected in the programming we offer. Representation matters to us, and we stand firm in our commitment to telling stories about, and by, all Canadians. It is important that we share stories that reflect the realities of Canadians. We are looking for regional representation and really want to highlight the diversity of Canadian communities. We want high-impact, buzzworthy programming.

Our core programming needs are for 1-hour dramas (44 minutes) that appeal to a wide range of Canadians with a target demographic of 30-49, and that can air on the CBC linear service between the hours of 8:00 pm-10:00 pm and stream on CBC Gem.

We look for concepts that offer insight to what is to be Canadian – contemporary, historical or speculative. We really respond to concepts that are based in worlds that feel deep, expansive and pique curiosity. If we can describe them as thrilling, suspenseful and - above all - entertaining, you are on the right track. We never want to be earnest or predictable.

We especially respond to concepts that have strong contemporary relevance, with a defined storytelling POV and characters that feel grounded and unique. We love it when creators tell us they couldn't make their show anywhere else, then we know we have something perfect for CBC. Before pitching CBC Drama, please visit:

<https://www.cbc.ca/independentproducers/genres/drama/drama>

CBC Films: Gosia Kamela, Head of CBC Films

Bio: As Head of CBC Films, Gosia oversees the Scripted Original Feature Film slate for CBC and GEM with recent titles including Deaner '89, Rumours, BlackBerry, Riceboy Sleeps, and Bones of Crows. Previously, as an Executive at Bell Media, Gosia was



responsible for the development and production of original scripted series across a large portfolio of channel brands including CTV and Crave. A few notable series credits include Orphan Black, Transplant, and Deggrassi. In that role, Gosia also oversaw the Canadian Features slate for Crave. Prior to joining Bell Media, Gosia was a Producer at True West Films working in both documentary and scripted features including cult classic It's All Gone Pete Tong.

Company Profile: CBC Films supports feature films that reflect, represent, and reframe a range of perspectives at the center of the Canadian experience. Committed to creative excellence, cultural relevance, and talent development, CBC Films prioritizes storytelling that amplifies equity deserving communities, along with a parallel commitment to gender parity. CBC Films is looking for fully developed feature films enroute to production financing. CBC Films participates in production financing in the form of a pre-buy license.

CBC Unscripted & Docs: Nic Meloney, Executive in Charge of Production

Bio: Nic Meloney is a mixed Wolastoqi/Canadian Journalist and Executive in Charge of Production with CBC Unscripted, who works closely with independent creators from First Nations, Inuit and Métis (as well as non-Indigenous) in documentary and factual productions. Nic is part of the Indigenous team leading the work on CBC/Radio-Canada's National Indigenous Strategy. A member of Woodstock First Nation in Wolastokuk (New Brunswick) and a proud Cape Bretoner, he currently lives and works in Kjipuktuk (Halifax, Nova Scotia).

Nic previously worked as a reporter and video producer with CBC Nova Scotia and CBC Indigenous, covering the Atlantic region. His work has taken him to Indigenous territories across the country for the production and development of digital video features and television documentaries, both long and short form, as well as syndicated, local and national broadcast news content.

Company Profile: For information on the types of content the unscripted team is currently commissioning please visit the Limited Documentary Series and Factual & Entertainment pages on the [CBC's Independent Producer](#) website.

CBC Unscripted: Jessica Schmiedchen, Director of Development, Unscripted Content

Bio: Jessica oversees development of original content and formats in the genres of factual, entertainment and documentary series at CBC and CBC Gem. She is responsible for sourcing the best new formats from around the world, and working with the independent production community in Canada to bring their ideas to life. Since joining



the Unscripted team in 2011, Jessica has led development on popular and award-winning series including *Stuff the British Stole*, *Race Against the Tide*, *Best In Miniature*, *Canada's Ultimate Challenge*, *You Can't Ask That*, *Great Canadian Pottery Throw Down*, *Bollywed*, *Push* and original paranormal series *Ghosting*.

Company Profile: For information on the types of content the unscripted team is currently commissioning please visit the Limited Documentary Series and Factual & Entertainment pages on the [CBC's Independent Producer](#) website.

Cineflix Productions: Tanya Blake, Executive Producer

Bio: With her focus on developing and producing lifestyle content for the US and Canadian markets in both English and French, Tanya oversees series producers and production crews while managing close relationships with broadcasters and streamers. Her executive producer credits include the all-new season of *Property Virgins* for A&E's *Home.Made.Nation*, the third season of HGTV Canada's hit series *Rock Solid Builds*, the Costa Rica-set reno series *Betting on Paradise* for HGTV US, and TIFF's 2023 official selection *Summer Qamp*, a feature documentary chronicling the stories of LGBTQIA2S+ campers and counselors for Super Channel and TVA.

Based in Toronto, Tanya has played a pivotal role in some of Cineflix's most successful series, including *Food Factory* and its spinoff *Style Factory*, *Air Crash Investigation*, and *Psychic Investigators*. With extensive credits as a director and story editor, she was also a series producer with Lone Eagle Entertainment on *Food Network Canada* and Hulu USA's celebrated food and travel show *Big Food Bucket List*.

Company Profile: Cineflix Productions, led by President and Head of Content J.C. Mills, is a leading creator and producer of must-watch content for global networks and streamers. With production and development hubs in Toronto and New York, the company is responsible for creating some of the longest running brands in cable: *Property Brothers*, *American Pickers*, *Air Crash Investigation*, and *Property Virgins*—with its reboot for A&E's *Home.Made.Nation*.

Our feature documentary lineup includes Nancy Buirski's acclaimed film *Desperate Souls*, *Dark City* and the *Midnight Cowboy*, and *Summer Qamp* which has its World Premiere at TIFF, chronicling the stories of LGBTQIA2S+ campers and counselors.

These titles join a slate of compelling shows like *Betting on Paradise*, coming soon to HGTV US; A&E's two-part special *The Torso Killer Confessions*; HGTV Canada's hit series *Rock Solid Builds*; *A Time to Kill* with more than 100+ hours; as well as tentpole TV movies *Abducted off the Street: The Carlesha Gaither Story* for Lifetime, *Undercover Holiday* for Hallmark Channel, and *I Was Lorena Bobbitt* for Lifetime, winner of Best TV



Movie at the 2022 Canadian Screen Awards. Cineflix Productions is part of the Cineflix Media group of companies.

Cineflix Rights: Giuliana Benvenuto, Senior Manager, Acquisitions, North America

Bio: With fourteen years of experience in film and television distribution, broadcasting, and financing, Giuliana Benvenuto has been part of the Cineflix Rights team since February 2018. Giuliana sources and acquires third-party programming content for the company's distribution catalogue. With a focus on unscripted North American acquisitions, Giuliana's producer clients include Scott Brothers Entertainment, Hoff Productions, Arcadia Entertainment, and Ideacom International. Cineflix Rights' genres of focus include true crime, history, factual entertainment, lifestyle, science & engineering, wildlife & natural history, and documentary series.

Giuliana is a graduate of Toronto Metropolitan (formerly Ryerson) University's RTA School of Media and began her career at Ontario Creates and Entertainment One. Prior to joining Cineflix Rights, Giuliana honed her skills during her five years at Corus Entertainment as Content Acquisitions Associate, where she acquired content from worldwide suppliers for all of Corus' channels. Giuliana is passionate about the media industry and is eager to be a part of shaping its future.

Company Profile: Cineflix Rights is the UK's largest, truly independent TV content distributor to broadcasters, streamers, and FAST platforms worldwide with a catalogue of premium scripted series, movies, and long-running factual brands from some of the world's most creative producers. Cineflix Rights' genres of focus include true crime, history, factual entertainment, lifestyle, science & engineering, wildlife & natural history, and documentary series. Established in 2002, Cineflix Rights is based in London, and is part of the Cineflix Media group of companies.

Corus: Dora Fong, Production Executive, Original Programming

Bio: Dora Fong is an award-winning production executive, showrunner, and director, with hundreds of hours of programming credits. With over 20 years in the industry, her experience spans true crime to makeovers, real estate to renos, and competition to travelogue. Having produced some of Canada's brightest talents including Drew and Jonathan Scott (Property Brothers) and Kortney Wilson (Making It Home), her work at Corus is centered around championing producers and supporting new voices in the unscripted space.

Company Profile: Coming soon - watch this space.

The Coven: Anelle Dehghani, Head of Sales

Bio: With a decade experience in domestic distribution and international sales at Raven Banner Entertainment, Anelle Dehghani has focused her career on bringing elevated genre films to the global market with titles such as *The Autopsy of Jane Doe*, *Tigers are Not Afraid*, and *The Sadness*.

Anelle's international sales experience has led to work closely with some of the biggest film distributors and filmmakers around the world. Anelle now serves as Head of Sales for *The Coven* who helm international sales on *Terrifier 2 & 3*.

Company Profile: Female-owned and operated since 2021 *The Coven* prioritizes unique stories with films such as *We Need to Do Something* from the producers of the *Saw* franchise, *Dark Blood* starring John Leguizamo, and the now infamous *Terrifier 2*, which hit over \$15M at the worldwide box office and quickly became viral, highlighted in the *New York Times* and *Howard Stern*.

In 2023, *The Coven* moved into production with Mike Peterson's *Shadow of God*, and is currently seeks high-profile packages for the label, paying special attention to clever horror or fantastic genres, and from new or underrepresented voices.

Elevation Pictures: Michael O'Leary, Head of Marketing and Creative

Bio: Michael O'Leary is currently the Head of Marketing and Creative at Elevation Pictures where he has led successful campaigns for such films as *The Imitation Game*, *Moonlight*, *Everything Everywhere All at Once* and most recently, *Civil War* and *Longlegs*. He is integral in the creation of all marketing materials and media campaigns for Elevation's Canadian titles, including *BlackBerry* and *French Girl*. Michael has over 14 years of experience in the film industry previously working in exhibitor relations and then marketing at both *Alliance Films* and *eOne*.

In addition to his current role at Elevation Pictures, he is also a key part of the Acquisitions team where he reads scripts, offers feedback, further develops, and champions titles to be picked up by Elevation for distribution.

Company Profile: Founded in 2013 with finance partner Teddy Schwarzman of *Black Bear*, Elevation Pictures has become Canada's leading entertainment company specializing in distribution and production. Elevation is known for releasing commercial and critically acclaimed films, including Academy Award-winning films *The Imitation Game*, *Room*, *The Father*, *Moonlight*, *Everything Everywhere All at Once*, *Anatomy of a Fall* and *The Zone of Interest*.



Elevation Pictures is also known for its strong slate of Canadian films, BlackBerry starring Jay Baruchel, Irena's Vow starring Sophie Nelisse, Brother starring Lamar Johnson and Elevation productions Alice, Darling starring Anna Kendrick, Infinity Pool starring Mia Goth. For more information, please visit elevationpictures.com

Epic Pictures: Tata Pemova, Senior Manager, Sales

Bio: Based in Montreal, Tata Pemova has over 9 years of experience in international sales and 12 years in the film industry. Since joining Epic Pictures in 2022, her key role has been in International Sales, while also contributing to acquisitions and development. Tata manages a catalog of commercial indie films, working closely with distributors and platforms around the globe.

With a degree in Fine Arts and additional studies in the New Media program at the Moscow Museum of Contemporary Art, Tata brings a creative touch to her work. She collaborates with the team on marketing efforts and regularly attends key global film markets, including Marche du Film, EFM (European Film Market), AFM (American Film Market), TIFF, Busan Film Market, Filmart in Hong Kong, and others, ensuring the company's presence worldwide.

Company Profile: Founded in 2007, Epic Pictures is an independent content studio with the mission of delivering the best-in-class genre entertainment "for fans, by fans." Epic Pictures produces, finances, and distributes approximately twenty-thirty independent genre films a year. In 2013, the company established Epic Pictures Releasing which is its US focused distribution division. In 2017, Epic Pictures acquired the world's most popular horror website, Dread Central, and launched its unique horror label, Dread, followed by its AVOD channel, DreadTV. In 2019, Epic Pictures started the horror gaming site, DreadXP, with a focus on editorial, reviews, podcasts, and original streaming content. In 2020, DreadXP began a video game production and publishing division in collaboration with some of the most innovative developers in the independent gaming space.

The Film Collaborative: Orly Ravid, Founder & Co-Executive Director; and David Averbach, Creative Director & Director of Digital Distribution

Orly Ravid Bio: Orly Ravid is the Founder and Co-Executive Director of The Film Collaborative, and the Associate Dean of the Biederman Entertainment & Media Law Institute at Southwestern Law School. Orly has over 20 years of experience in independent film as an acquisitions and business affairs executive. She's served as a Documentary Programming Associate at Sundance Film Festival and a programming



consultant at Palm Springs International and the Middle East Film Festival. A regular panelist, educator, and blogger about digital distributing, splitting rights, and distribution in general at film festivals worldwide, Orly has also contributed to indieWIRE, TFC's blog, and Sundance's Artists Services. Orly launched TFC's Digital Distribution Guide and other distribution related educational initiatives as part of TFC's free resource, Distripedia™.

David Averbach Bio: David directs TFC's digital distribution and distribution-education initiatives, regularly advising filmmakers on D.I.Y. distribution. He has spoken on film festival and film market panels, such as DOC NYC, Tacoma, and the FilmBazaar in Goa, India, and has participated in industry markets, such as Gotham Week, Sheffield Doc/Fest, Tribeca, Docs by the Sea in Bali, Indonesia, InsideOut Toronto, ACFM in Busan, and DOC NYC. In addition, as Creative Director, David handles all internal print and web design and branding collateral, and is also in charge of technical and editorial development of many of TFC's free suite of online educational tools, which includes TFC's Digital Distribution Guide, Distributor ReportCard, Case Studies and TFC Blog.

Company Profile: The Film Collaborative is the first non-profit committed to distribution education and facilitation of independent film. Launched in early 2010, TFC helps filmmakers with all aspects of distribution without taking rights. In addition to our suite of complimentary online distribution-related educational tools for indie filmmakers, we offer filmmakers a way to submit their films to our Festival Distribution, Fiscal Sponsorship and Consultation Programs. We also handle boutique Sales and Impact/Theatrical Distribution, but those are usually provided in tandem with one of the other services mentioned above. TFC's overall mandate is to encourage transparency in the film industry, and foster diversity, creative expression, and cultural exchange through the films that TFC distributes.

Film Seekers UK: Caroline Couret-Delègue, Managing Director

Bio: After working in feature film production in Hollywood on movies starring Rob Schneider, David Carradine, Jennifer Morrison, Winona Ryder, Wes Bentley, Steve Buscemi, to name but only a few, Caroline chose to come back to Europe and relocate to London in 2008 as Director of Development & Marketing at Seven Arts Pictures. In 2011, she joined AV Pictures where she gained invaluable knowledge in deal structuring from the company's founder, Vic Bateman.

In May 2014, she launched Metrodome International, the international sales arm of the Metrodome Group handling a wide range of feature films from third party producers to in-house productions. She then left Metrodome to launch her own company, Truffle Pictures, a London based international sales agency and production house, in 2016, and subsequently Film Seekers Ltd since February 2018. In 2022 she launched Film Seekers France, its European arm.



Caroline is a French native who speaks fluent French, English and Spanish. She is a graduate of the Inside Pictures programme 2015 and holds two post-graduate master's degrees one in Chemistry from the University of Versailles and the second one in Business Management from the University of Bordeaux. She is a member of BAFTA and sits on the board of two major lobbying associations: Film Export UK and the Independent Film and Television Alliance.

Company Profile: Focusing on commercially driven feature films, Film Seekers Ltd. and Film Seekers France work with new and established filmmakers alike, assisting from script development to distribution. The companies have established themselves as specialists in uplifting feel good dramas and elevated genre films, currently representing four to six films a year.

Recent successes include Edie, released theatrically worldwide; The Witch in the Window, a festival favourite sold on multi-territory deals; Love Sarah sold to 50+ countries for theatrical releases; June Again release by Studio Canal in Australia taking \$2.7M at the box office, nominated for 4 Academy Awards in Australia, winning one; and action revenge thriller Sunray which pre-sold a number of key territories and is set for theatrical release in the fall.

Looking For: Film Seekers works on all genres of feature films except documentaries. Please note we are not currently interested in comedies and/or social dramas. We also don't do series at the moment.

FOX Entertainment Global / Neshama Entertainment: Brook Peters, SVP Sales & Business Development

Bio: Brook Peters oversees sales and business development in Toronto for a wide variety of production and distribution entities. Representing Neshama Entertainment, Incendo Productions, and Fox Entertainment Global for the Canadian marketplace, Brook's remit focuses on production and distribution opportunities with a specific focus on scripted series and features.

With 20 years working in various aspects of the film and television industry, Brook's content sales, acquisitions, and executive experience expands across studio, network broadcast, and digital media channels and services in Canada and around the world.

About Neshama Entertainment: Neshama Entertainment is a Canadian production company based in Toronto. Formed in 2018 by Arnie Zipursky, in partnership with Los Angeles-based distributor MarVista Entertainment, Neshama sources Canadian creative content and talent including writers, producers, actors, editors, directors, and cinematographers.



Recent titles include Tubi originals “The Marriage Pass” and “Twin Lies,” as well as “Under the Christmas Tree” and “A Chance for Christmas,” both nominated for Best TV Movie at the 2023 Canadian Screen Awards. Neshama’s one-hour drama “The Way Home,” Hallmark’s first original series in seven years, premiered in early 2023 to tremendous success and has already been renewed for a third season.

About Fox Entertainment Global: Based in Los Angeles on the FOX Studios lot, FOX Entertainment Global oversees the international, multiplatform sales and distribution of intellectual property owned and produced by FOX Entertainment and its growing portfolio of in-house production studios including TUBI, Studio Ramsay Global, Bento Box, MarVista, as well as premium content acquired from outside producers.

Looking For: Scripted MOWs in the Christmas and thriller genres. Scripted 1-hr dramas. Generally also looking for any distribution opportunities on finished products.

Game Theory Films: Hilary Hart, Co-President

Bio: Hilary’s career in film began in short film distribution at Ouat Media, before moving onto the Canadian Film Centre. While at the CFC she contributed to an online film magazine, The Seventh Art, where she managed a Live Director’s Series, which brought prominent directors to Toronto to screen and discuss their work. She then worked for three years in talent management, before partnering in 2018 with Will Woods to create Game Theory Films, a Toronto based independent film distribution company where she serves as Co-President. Hilary is a Berlinale Talents alumnus, voting member of the Academy Of Canadian Cinema & Television, and in 2022 was named one of The Globe and Mail’s 22 Most Influential People in Canadian Film.

Company Profile: Game Theory Films is a boutique feature film distribution company based in Toronto, Ontario, established in 2018. Game Theory is committed to the strategic release of narrative and documentary theatrical feature films of all genres, within the North American marketplace. Our aim is to partner with diverse voices to ensure their work receives a targeted and dynamic release strategy. With a small passionate staff, we offer a personal touch, and are available to our partners throughout the life of their films from development through release.

IFC Films | RLJE | Shudder: Rachael Labes, Coordinator, Acquisitions & Productions

Bio: Rachael is the Coordinator of Acquisitions and Productions at IFC Films. She has worked at IFC for three years, playing an integral role in curating the release slates of IFC Films, RLJ Entertainment, and Shudder. Recently, she coordinated the acquisition of films such as BlackBerry, Late Night with the Devil, Stopmotion, and The Taste of Things.



In her spare time, Rachael enjoys writing romance novels (Love Marks on Amazon) and performing in her all-women's improv team (@notlikeothergirls) in Brooklyn.

Company Profile: IFC Films is a leading U.S. distributor of independent cinema that is operated by AMC Networks Inc. The company has been at the forefront of championing boundary-pushing, thought-provoking films for 25 years, with a commitment to delivering high-quality, filmmaker-driven cinema across all genres. IFC Films' slate reaches a national audience through theatrical releases, cable Video On Demand (VOD), and digital platforms.

Some of the company's successes over the years include Andrew Haigh's 45 YEARS, Jennifer Kent's THE BABADOOK, Matthew Johnson's BLACKBERRY, Richard Linklater's BOYHOOD, Armando Iannucci's THE DEATH OF STALIN, Noah Baumbach's FRANCES HA, David France's HOW TO SURVIVE A PLAGUE, Chris Nash's IN A VIOLENT NATURE, Colin and Cameron Cairnes' LATE NIGHT WITH THE DEVIL, Stephen Frears' THE LOST KING, Adam Elliot's MEMOIR OF A SNAIL, Olivier Assayas' PERSONAL SHOPPER, Tran Anh Hung's THE TASTE OF THINGS, Michael Winterbottom's THE TRIP, and Chloe Okuno's WATCHER.

K5 Films: Oda Schaefer, Partner - Production and Acquisitions

Bio: During her studies in Communication at the Freie Universität Berlin Oda worked for the trendsetting monthly TEMPO, first as Visuals Editor, then as Visuals Director, collaborating with leading and emerging talent like Helmut Newton, Juergen Teller and Wolfgang Tillmans. Under the Tempo-banner she oversaw the German shows of the touring exhibition The Graphic Language of Neville Brody, curated by the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.

Her stint at the American Film Institute in Los Angeles triggered a career switch from print to audiovisual media. Her first job in film after graduating from AFI with a MFA was as assistant to the line producer at Helkon Media AG. Oda went on to become a Commissioning Editor for RTL, supervising the production of 6 TV-features in only two years.

Since 2002 Oda has been working as Head of Acquisitions and Production for K5 International and K5 Film, always searching for projects of exceptional quality and potential. Nicknamed "the firewall", she finds, evaluates, and develops. Since 2005 she also freelances as a script consultant for the ScriptForum in Vienna. Additionally, she assesses feature and series projects as a jury member for two of Germany's most important funds.

In 2016 she worked as producer on ANON by Andrew Niccol.



Company Profile: K5 has been in the vanguard for many years - launching freeX in 1993, the first ever German script development agency; founding K5 Film, a production company with a studio-like package deal with Bavaria Film; setting up the digital content company Nowtilus which became the German market leader in only three years before its sale to Rovi.

K5 was first to believe in the distribution of English language films out of Germany. After 10 years of selling Oscar contenders and internationally acclaimed films, K5 teamed up with Amazon in 2013 to co-finance and produce the latest film by Jim Jarmusch - PATERSON, starring Adam Driver. For a few years we mainly focused on production: In 2018 our sci-fi movie ANON by Andrew Niccol, starring Clive Owen and Amanda Seyfried, was released in cinemas and on Netflix. THE COLDEST GAME with Bill Pullman by Lukasz Kosmicki is available on Netflix. During the lockdown we produced Mukunda Michael Dewil's THE IMMACULATE ROOM with Emile Hirsch and Kate Bosworth. Pawel Maslona's SCARBORN premiered in Poland in the fall and won a slew of awards. Since last year we have boosted our sales activities, beginning with Kevin Costner's Western saga HORIZON, released by WB in the US on June 28th. Our team of sales agents is covering the entire globe.

Keeping pace with the times, K5 has also entered the realm of gaming and XR. In September of this year we will release the alpha version of our VR game OKTOBERFEST - THE OFFICIAL GAME.

Looking For: At the moment we are looking mostly for smart genre projects - with a commercial or conceptual twist. Moreover, we never say no to a good drama and comedy.

levelFILM: Olivier Gauthier-Mercier, VP, Distribution

Bio: With over two decades in the Canadian film industry, Olivier Gauthier-Mercier has quietly held influential roles at eOne, Remstar, Elevation Pictures, and Sphere, shaping the distribution landscape. Passionate and strategic, Olivier strives for and drives industry progress.

Company Profile: Based in Toronto, Canada, levelFILM is the independent distribution company behind films such as THE BODY REMEMBERS WHEN THE WORLD BROKE OPEN, MAFIA MAMMA, THE INSPECTION, THE SWEARING JAR and the award-winning SCARBOROUGH. Upcoming releases include India Donaldson's GOOD ONE, YOUNG WERTHER starring Douglas Booth, Alison Pill, Patrick J. Adams and Iris Apatow and the Indigenous horror film SEEDS, directed by Kaniethiio Horn.

Founded in 2013, levelFILM specializes in acquiring, developing, marketing and selling captivatingly original, quality independent films in Canada and abroad. Between a



growing catalogue of high-quality titles and projects in development, levelFILM's goal is to create balance both on-screen and off.

LevelK: Mark Tucker, Acquisitions & Development

Bio: Mark handles all of LevelK acquisitions, based out of London, having worked in acquisitions and development for production and international sales for many years.

Company Profile: LevelK is a Copenhagen based international film sales agency handling around 12 cinematic titles per year, aimed for theatrical release internationally. With a longstanding reputation in the marketplace for high quality projects, we employ a carefully targeted bespoke sales, marketing, and festivals strategy for each of our titles. We work with bold, original films that have strong festival potential and will resonate with international audiences. Our profile includes high quality productions across all genres, working with established and emerging international talents in both English and foreign language.

Looking For: We are looking for bold, original films of high quality and across all genres that we can market worldwide and that will resonate with international audiences. The films must have strong festival potential, international marketability and digital possibilities. The stage of project at which LevelK prefers to get involved is often at script stage when part of the financing is in place, and in most cases prior to production.

Lionsgate Canada: Andrew Kelly, VP, Scripted Development

Bio: As Vice President, Scripted Development for Lionsgate Canada, Andrew develops dramatic and comedic series for Canada and the global co-production marketplace. Working on series sold to ABC, Amazon, CBC, CTV, CityTV, Global, CTV Sci-Fi, Netflix, Showcase, Starz, Syfy, and The CW, Andrew strives to deliver bold, dynamic, original storytelling in commercially viable formats. Instrumental in sourcing and developing series like *Caught*, produced by Take the Shot, and *Burden of Truth*, starring Kristin Kreuk, he takes pride in strong relationships based on creative collaboration with both emerging and experienced talent. His passion is to develop, sell, and deliver the kind of world-class, undeniable programming of which he knows the Canadian market is capable.

Active throughout the Canadian industry, Andrew has spoken on panels and participated in juries at All Access Manitoba, Banff World Media Festival, Screen Nova Scotia, the Canadian Film Centre, Content Canada, Content London, ScriptedNYC, WattCon, Queen's Media Conference, Humber College, and Toronto Metropolitan University. Andrew was



also named by Playback Magazine as one of their 5-to- Watch in 2018.

Company Profile: Lionsgate Canada is a talent-driven leader in entertainment production, serving Canadian and global audiences with award-winning content and a massive film and television library. It has a rich legacy of producing high-quality Canadian content for the domestic market and audiences around the world. From global blockbusters to hidden gems, Lionsgate Canada also distributes fan-favourite content across a vast catalogue, including a diverse portfolio of Quebec films via Les Films Seville.

Looking For: Lionsgate Canada's Scripted Television division is currently looking for original, entertaining, commercial projects primarily in the one-hour network procedural space – whether in traditional arenas of police, legal, and medical with dynamic leads or an interesting angle / entry point, or other arenas that can support episodic engines with high-stakes – and the half-hour network comedy space – ideally centered on workplace, family, or hang-out ensembles with strong characters and ongoing comedic conflict.

Lionsgate Canada: Christine Diakos, VP, Unscripted Programming

Bio: Christine spearheads development, creation and pitching of non-scripted content for eOne in Canada, with a focus on lifestyle, reality and competition series. With more than two decades of experience in Canadian television, Christine has a keen understanding of the business, and an eye for great stories and intriguing on-air personalities.

Prior to Lionsgate, Christine spent nearly four years at Big Coat Productions producing series such as HGTV's Love It or List It and Love It or List It Vancouver. Her producing career spans a variety of senior production and development roles across a wide range of genres, from A Users Guide to Cheating Death (VisionTV) to Hockey Wives (W Network), among others. Christine also previously spent three years as a Production Executive at Shaw Media overseeing HGTV, Food and Slice Network.

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Mongrel Media: Alison Inkpen, Sales and Acquisitions Coordinator

Bio: Alison Inkpen is the Sales and Acquisitions Coordinator at Mongrel Media. She oversees all duties for tracking upcoming projects and film festivals all around the world in addition to assisting the Home Entertainment sales and acquisitions department. She graduated from Dalhousie University, majoring in Cinema and Media Studies and continued her studies at Centennial College's Business in TV and Film program.

Company Profile: Mongrel Media is a leading independent film distributor focused on bringing the best of local and world cinema to Canadian audiences. It was founded in 1994 by Hussain Amarshi. Since then, the company has built a reputation as an innovative and distinct brand, with a discerning taste. The distributor has developed long-lasting relationships with filmmakers, industry professionals, exhibitors, retailers, e-tailers, and broadcasters. Mongrel Media prides itself on building bold and uniquely customized distribution strategies for each film, with Quebec distribution handled by Métropole Films.

Starting with *The Silences of the Palaces*, the Mongrel catalogue has grown to thousands of titles, with releases over the years including Palme d'Or winners *Shoplifters*, *I*, *Daniel Blake*, *Taste of Cherry*, *The White Ribbon* and *The Child*; Oscar winners *Call Me by Your Name*, *Manchester by the Sea*, *A Fantastic Woman*, *The Great Beauty* and *Amour*; some of the best Canadian films like Aisling Walsh's *Maudie*, John Crowley's *Brooklyn*, Deepa Mehta's *Water*, Sarah Polley's *Away From Her* and *Stories We Tell*, Jennifer Baichwal's *Manufactured Landscapes* and Kim Nguyen's *Rebelle*; and acclaimed films by some of the world's finest directors such as Joel & Ethan Coens' *Inside Llewyn Davis*, Pedro Almodovar's *Talk to Her* and Richard Linklater's *Boyhood*.

Mongrel Media is proud to be a Canadian company.

Please note: Alison Inkpen will be taking in-person meetings for Regional projects/budgets under \$3.5m. For National projects/budgets over \$3.5m, please request to meet with Marko Orlic, who is attending virtually.

Mongrel Media: Marko Orlic, Director, Acquisitions & Sales

Bio: Marko Orlic is Mongrel Media's Director, Acquisitions & Sales. He is also a Prizm Prize jury member, as well as the Founder/Programmer of former rep screening series *Trouble Every Day Presents*. In the past, he has worked in entertainment in a number of other capacities, ranging from festival programming and on-set production, to DJing and arts & culture journalism. Major passions include mentorship, writing and podcasting.

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Mongrel Media is proud to be a Canadian company.

Please note: Marko Orlic will be taking virtual meetings for National projects/budgets over \$3.5m. For Regional projects/budgets under \$3.5m, please request Alison Inkpen, who is attending in-person.

Muse Entertainment: Jesse Prupas, SVP, Scripted

Bio: Please click [HERE](#).

Company Profile: Muse Entertainment is a world-class studio and one of Canada's largest film and television production companies, with its development and production offices in Montreal, Los Angeles, Toronto and Vancouver. Muse produces a wide range of primetime comedy and dramatic series, miniseries, television movies, feature films, documentaries, factual entertainment, family programs and animation. Muse's productions have won critical acclaim, large audiences, over 100 international awards, including Emmy Awards, and over 300 award nominations.

National Geographic: Andre Gary, Director, Documentary Films and Marja Diaz, Senior Manager of Documentary Films

Andre Bio: Andre is currently serving as Director of Documentary Films at National Geographic overseeing films from commission through distribution. Andre was involved with films such as Oscar nominated and DGA winning *Fire of Love* by Sara Dosa,



Peabody and Emmy winning *The Territory* by Alex Pritz, and Oscar nominated and Peabody winning film *Bobi Wine: The People's President* by Christopher Sharpe and Moses Bwayo. Over the last decade, Andre has held executive roles at entertainment companies such as Film 45, the NFL, and Ugly Brother Studios where he developed, sold, and produced non-scripted content that have garnered awards from Emmys to a James Beard. Andre began his career at WME where he worked in the talent, and non-scripted departments. Originally from the Northeast, he now resides in Los Angeles with his growing family.

Marja Bio: Marja Diaz is the Senior Manager of Documentary Films at National Geographic, specializing in creative development, production, and distribution. She previously worked at Creative Artists Agency and began her career as a RAY Conservation Fellow at Ocean Conservancy. As a multicultural, impact-driven storyteller, she aims to combine her passion for film and science to inspire change for our planet. She holds a degree in Human Biology from Stanford University, is an Emerging Leaders in Wildlife Conservation Senior Fellow, and Alumni of the Environmental Leadership Program.

Company Profile: National Geographic Documentary Films is committed to bringing the world premium documentaries that cover timely, provocative and globally relevant stories from the very best documentary filmmakers in the world. Furthering knowledge and understanding of our world has been the core purpose of National Geographic for over 130 years, and today we are committed to going deeper, going further, and continuing to push boundaries through the beauty and power of documentary filmmaking.

Netflix Canada: Chris Bell, Manager, Content

Bio: Chris Bell is the Manager, Content at Netflix Canada, working closely with content directors Tara Woodbury and Danielle Woodrow to develop and produce the upcoming slate of scripted content. Prior to joining Netflix, Chris worked at eOne as Vice President, Scripted Development where he oversaw eOne's development slate. Chris has a Masters in Media and Communications from the London School of Economics and currently sits on the board of directors for the Inside Out Film Festival.

Company Profile: Netflix is one of the world's leading entertainment services with 278 million paid memberships in over 190 countries enjoying TV series, films and games across a wide variety of genres and languages. Members can play, pause and resume watching as much as they want, anytime, anywhere, and can change their plans at any time.

OUTtv: Lauren Whitelaw, Head of Programming



Bio: Lauren is the Head of Programming for OUTtv, currently serving the global market. As we expand into more territories, she has successfully negotiated contracts with companies worldwide. Lauren is part of the development team at the network and continues to work closely with Producers to find the best LGBTQ+ programming.

Company Profile: As we are LGBTQ+ focused, OUTtv is looking for stories and content relevant to that community. It can be scripted or non-scripted, but we've commissioned much more non-scripted in the past. We are interested in all types of programming so long as the themes are LGBTQ+ positive and the cast and characters are predominately of the community. As a Canadian company, we are very interested in co-production. We are open to sharing rights with other distribution platforms but generally want to control first window rights for most territories.

Paramount+ Canada and Pluto TV, Paramount Global: Vanessa Case, VP, Content

Bio: Vanessa Case is the Vice President of Content for Paramount+ and Pluto TV in Canada. Based in Toronto, Case oversees all of Canada's content acquisitions and originals for the streaming platforms, with oversight of all content decisions for Paramount+ and Pluto TV in Canada.

Working closely with both local and global teams across the business, Case is instrumental in executing the content offering for the Canadian brands, through the coordination of third-party acquisitions, oversight of original content decisions, and development of innovative windowing strategies to drive growth in streaming.

Case previously served as Senior Vice President and Global Head of Production at VICE Studios & Pulse Films, overseeing physical production and production operations. Her most recent projects include ENCOUNTERS for Netflix, AMERICAN GLADIATORS for ESPN, BAMA RUSH for HBO and numerous DARK SIDE series for VICE TV and CRAVE. Prior to her time with VICE Studios, Case was the Executive Vice President of Content for Blue Ant Media, where she helped launch several world-renowned brands in Canada and internationally, including BBC Earth, Smithsonian Canada and the global SVOD Love Nature.

Throughout her career Case has served as an industry expert speaking and moderating panels at events including Realscreen, MIPCOM/MIPTV, Sunny Side of the Doc and Banff Media Festival. Case is currently a member of WIFT (Women in Film and Television), has been a long standing WIFT Connect Mentor, sat on the Banff World Media Advisory Board and was previously a cabinet member of Women Against MS (WAMS).



Company Profile: Coming soon - watch this space.

Photon Films: Sardé Hardie, Director, Sales & Acquisitions

Bio: Sardé Hardie is a Toronto based writer, producer, community organizer and film executive acquiring new content and securing sales on broadcast and digital platforms for Photon Films. Prior to joining Photon Films, she was at Entertainment One as a Sales Executive within the Film and Television division. In 2018 she helped launch Entertainment One's Diversity & Inclusion council. She is a long-time advocate for marginalized voices within the industry and has spoken on panels for the Canadian Academy, TIFF Next Wave, Black Youth Pathway 2 Industry and Black Women Film Canada and more

Company Profile: Photon Films is an independent, Toronto-based entertainment company specializing in the distribution, development, financing, production and of feature films for the domestic marketplace. Launched in 2010 as Pacific Northwest Pictures, Photon Films' strategic objective is to find innovative projects from Canada and around the globe. Recent company highlights include Academy Award nominated picture Sound of Metal, Hirokazu Kore-eda's Monster, Ken Loach's The Old Oak and Canadian features, Rosie, The Grizzlie Truth, Until Branches Bend, When Morning Comes and more.

Quiver Distribution: Berry Meyerowitz, Co-Founder

Bio: Berry Meyerowitz is the co-founder of Quiver Distribution, a film distribution company operating in the U.S., Canada and international markets which develops and distributes high-quality, talent-driven films with a focus on curating a highly selective film slate from both established and emerging talent.

Meyerowitz has Executive Produced over 30 feature films including: Irena's Vow starring Sophie Nelisse and Dougray Scott; Netflix's Happiness for Beginners starring Ellie Kemper and Luke Grimes; Dead Shot with Mark Strong and Felicity Jones; Bandit starring Josh Duhamel; Dead for a Dollar starring Christoph Waltz and Willem Dafoe; Becky starring Kevin James; and The Wrath of Becky starring Lulu Wilson.

Before launching Quiver with partner Jeff Sackman, Meyerowitz founded Phase 4 Films, where he served as President & CEO and transformed the company into one of the leading independent distributors in the U.S. Following the sale of Phase 4 Films to eOne, Meyerowitz stayed on as President of eOne's U.S. Film Business and launched its global digital initiative, continuing to double the company's revenues.

Meyerowitz also served as President of Peace Arch Home Entertainment after selling



them his previous company, kaBOOM! Entertainment. He formerly worked at 20th Century Fox as the Director of Marketing where he led successful campaigns for films such as There's Something About Mary, The Full Monty and The Star Wars trilogy.

Company Profile: Quiver Distribution is dedicated to producing and distributing high-quality, talent-driven films across the U.S., Canada, and international markets. Founded by entertainment industry veterans Berry Meyerowitz and Jeff Sackman, Quiver prides itself on curating a selective film slate that features both established and emerging talent. This approach allows for uniquely tailored campaigns and a filmmaker-first philosophy.

Our recent productions and releases include IRENA'S VOW, starring Sophie Nelisse and Dougray Scott, directed by Louise Archambault. The film has grossed over \$1,300,000 at the domestic box office and is the second highest-grossing film of 2024 in Canada.

Quiver also produced Happiness for Beginners, featuring Ellie Kemper and Luke Grimes, directed by Vicky Wight. Happiness for Beginners was released as a Netflix Original and ranks as the 30th most watched film on Netflix (out of 9,400 films) in the second half of 2023.

Upcoming releases include London Calling, an action comedy starring Josh Duhamel; and Die Alone, a thriller starring Carrie-Anne Moss and Frank Grillo.

Raven Banner Entertainment: Megan St-Pierre, Manager

Bio: Megan St-Pierre graduated with a B.A. Hons. in Drama Studies and English from York University in 2018. She furthered her education at the Toronto Film School, specializing in Writing for Film and Television, where she graduated in 2021 as the valedictorian and President's Award recipient. Since 2016, Megan has had the privilege of working in both the theatre and film industries and is currently a part of Raven Banner Entertainment. A Toronto native, she considers Nova Scotia her second home and cherishes every opportunity to visit.

Company Profile: Raven Banner Entertainment represents unique, innovative and cutting edge genre films for North American distribution and the international marketplace. Through its expertise in strategic project management, Raven Banner Entertainment can assist in any and all stages of project production. From acquisitions, representation, negotiations, strategic marketing plans, consultation, and sales, Raven Banner Entertainment is there in whatever capacity needed. We not only focus on the success of the films, but the success of the filmmakers as well.

Ritual Films: Olivia Courchesne, Head of Acquisitions; and William Gagnon, Head of



Sales

Olivia Bio: Olivia is particularly driven by the desire to elevate films from emerging genres that may not typically find distribution in Canada. She has a talent for identifying international gems, such as the neo-noir Chinese film *Only the River Flows*, which screened at Cannes. Olivia's approach is rooted in fostering connections between creators and audiences, ensuring that even the most daring works find a home on streaming platforms and in theaters.

As the Director of Marketing and Acquisitions at Ritual, Olivia Courchesne plays a key role in shaping the company's growing presence in the Canadian film landscape. Olivia holds a degree in Film Studies from Concordia University and pursued graduate studies in Management at HEC Montréal. With previous experience in post-production and a keen eye for strategic growth, Olivia co-founded Ritual with the mission to bring cutting-edge films to Canadian audiences. She is passionate about curating a bold, innovative catalogue of both fiction and documentary films that push boundaries and offer fresh perspectives.

William Bio: William co-founded Ritual with a vision to introduce daring and original films to Canadian audiences. Drawing on his background in acquisitions and his work as a curator, William is passionate about discovering films that push genre boundaries and providing them with the platform they deserve. He ensures that Ritual's catalog reflects the company's core mission: distributing bold, fresh stories that resonate both locally and internationally.

Company profile: Founded by Olivia Courchesne and William Gagnon, Ritual is a Canadian film distributor committed to bringing bold, innovative films to audiences across the country. Specializing in theatrical releases, video on demand, and streaming platforms, Ritual is focused on stories that challenge the status quo, blending emerging genres with cutting-edge storytelling. The company seeks to provide Canadians with films that have garnered acclaim at prestigious festivals worldwide, from Cannes to Busan, while also championing works that might not otherwise receive attention within the Canadian market.

Ritual's catalogue spans both fiction and documentary, with a strong emphasis on international content that explores new perspectives and diverse voices. The company's recent acquisitions include *Only the River Flows* (Shujun Wei, 2023), *Paradise is Burning* (Mika Gustafson, 2023), *Kalak* (Isabella Eklöf), *Eat the Night* (Jonathan Vinel & Caroline Poggi, 2024), and *Kyuka: Before Summer's End* (Kostis Charamountanis, 2024). These selections reflect Ritual's commitment to showcasing films that resonate with originality, boldness, and vision.

In addition to its international acquisitions, Ritual is also progressively increasing its involvement in Canadian-based projects, supporting the growth of the local film industry. With six upcoming titles slated for release by early 2025, Ritual is quickly



establishing itself as a key player in Canada's distribution landscape, known for its forward-thinking approach and dedication to high-quality, impactful cinema.

We are particularly interested in works that push boundaries, whether through unique storytelling, innovative imagery, or fresh approaches to universal themes. Our focus is on acquiring films that challenge conventional narratives while maintaining an impactful connection with audiences, whether they be fiction or documentary. As Ritual continues to expand its catalogue, we are looking for bold, daring projects that resonate with originality and vision.

Seven One Studios International: Laura Beetz, Scripted Acquisitions Manager

Bio: Laura Beetz is the Scripted Acquisition Manager at Seven One Studios International. Based in Germany, alongside her team she handles all scripted development and acquisition activities, working with both production companies within Seven One Studios as well as third party producers and writers, with the aim to package, co-finance and co-produce projects for the international market.

In her role, Laura takes responsibility for the management and executive production of Seven One Studios International's scripted projects, including *Departure*, produced by Shaftesbury for Global (Canada) and *While The Men Are Away* produced by Arcadia for SBS (Australia). Prior to her role at Seven One Studios International, she worked with production companies, such as Tellux Film & Rat Pack.

Company Profile: Seven One Studios International (formerly Red Arrow Studios International) is a leading supplier of scripted, formats and factual content from outstanding production companies, third-party producers, and digital content partners. We are part of Seven One Studios, which is comprised of an acclaimed network of production companies in Germany and other key territories.

Seven One Studios is a ProSiebenSat.1 Media SE company, one of Europe's leading media groups. Seven One Studios International is focusing on commercial scripted TV Series that appeal to a wide audience in the genres of Thriller, Crime, Drama or Damedy with a strong USP that stands out.

Ultimately, Seven One Studios International is open to all genres with the exclusion of Children/Family content and TV movies.

Super Channel: Kim Ball, Chief Content & Communications Officer

Bio: Kim joined Super Channel in 2012 and currently serves as the company's Chief Content & Communications Officer. In this role, Kim leads the programming strategy for



the company's suite of four channels including pre-licensing of Canadian productions and acquisition of foreign content. Her portfolio also includes oversight of media relations, programming publicity, corporate communications and industry outreach. Prior to joining Super Channel, Kim was Director of Marketing, Publicity & Promotion at 20th Century Fox / Incendo Television Distribution for over a decade. She holds a Bachelor of Commerce Degree from McMaster University and a post-grad certificate in PR from Humber College. She is also a graduate of the WIFT-T Media Leadership Program and a member of the Foundation for WIFT-T Board.

Company Profile: Super Channel's mandate is to provide viewers with a wide variety of entertaining, engaging and informative content across our suite of four channels, including features, documentaries, scripted dramas, unscripted factual series and tv movies. More info: <https://superchannel.ca/>

Looking For: Limited drama series; based on a true story/crime; true crime, scripted & unscripted; thrillers (tv movies); heartwarming dramas; inspirational and uplifting content; romantic tv movies, unscripted factual docuseries (history/mystery/science/tech /thought provoking).

TIME Studio: Kyle Hentschel, Director of Development

Bio: Kyle is the Director of Development for documentaries at TIME Studios in New York, focusing on the development and production of premium documentary films and series. Prior to joining TIME, Kyle worked in creative development at Boardwalk Pictures, the production company behind titles like CHEF'S TABLE, CHEER, LAST CHANCE U, WELCOME TO WREXHAM, and WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT COSBY; and before that at RYOT Films, Verizon's award-winning documentary, branded and immersive studio.

Company Profile: From one of the most globally iconic brands, TIME Studios is the award-winning television, film, and immersive division of TIME. With a brand defining visual language that dates back more than 100 years, TIME Studios aims to impact communities around the world with ideas that forge true progress, bringing a global audience to the most important stories of our time. Recent titles include DIRTY POP: THE BOY BAND SCAM (Netflix), THE LIONHEART (HBO), FRIDA (Amazon Prime), and UNDER PRESSURE: THE US WOMEN'S WORLD CUP TEAM (Netflix). More information about TIME Studios projects can be found at <https://studios.time.com/>

Please Note: Kyle is solely documentary / nonfiction focused (films and series).

Visit Films: Sophie Gilbert, Acquisitions



Bio: With a background in film education, film criticism, production, and repertory programming, Sophie began her work in independent film acquisitions as an intern with Brainstorm Media. In her time at Visit Films, Sophie worked in festivals before transitioning to working in sales and acquisitions. Sophie holds a BA from Wesleyan University in Film Studies.

Company Profile: Based in Brooklyn, NY, Visit Films is a world sales company specializing in daring and original work from diverse filmmakers all around the globe. Visit represents Oscar-nominated and award winning films from the world's top festivals, including Cannes, Berlin, Sundance, Rotterdam, Toronto, SXSW, Tribeca, and many more. With years of extensive expertise and a catalog of 200+ titles, Visit understands what it takes to navigate today's constantly evolving market. As one of the only true worldwide sales companies with a strong presence in the American market handling sales to N. America, the company is able to strategize and plan for coordinated worldwide releases. Visit works on films in all stages from development to completion and licenses to theatrical distributors, DVD/digital outlets, and broadcasters.

Additionally, the company works with hundreds of festivals and non-theatrical screening venues each year to program its slate of titles. Visit has helped to launch some of today's most talented and innovative filmmakers, including the Safdie brothers, David Robert Mitchell, Eliza Hittman, and Kogonada, while continuing to cultivate relationships with steadfast auteurs such as Werner Herzog, Harmony Korine, Josephine Decker, and the Duplass brothers.

Visit Films is also the parent company for US based distributor Monument Releasing and the feature and documentary development incubator Pretty ____ Ideas.

Vortex Media: Matt Orenstein, Vice President, Acquisitions and Strategy

Bio: Matt Orenstein is Vice President of Acquisitions and Strategy at Vortex Media. Notable Vortex Media titles include Peace By Chocolate, Nitram, I Don't Know Who You Are, and National Anthem. Previously, Matt was the co-founder of the Canadian film distribution company, ABMO Films, which released films including Academy Award-nominated First Reformed and Suspiria. Matt also worked at eOne as part of the US acquisitions group and is a graduate of the University of Western Ontario and the Newhouse School at Syracuse University with an MS in Media Management.

Company Profile: Vortex is a boutique entertainment studio, comprised of a theatrical releasing company focused on feature films in Canada and an in-house production arm. Recent and upcoming releases include TIFF 2024 selections Do I Know You From Somewhere? and Measures For A Funeral, Wildcat, Sometimes I Think About Dying, William Shatner: You Can Call Me Bill, The Retirement Plan, Nitram, Cora Bora, The Feeling That The Time For Doing Something Has Passed, Starve Acre, and National



Anthem. Films in the Vortex catalogue include Swiss Army Man, Green Room, First Reformed, The Gift, The Guest, and The Neon Demon.

VVS Films: Claire Peace-McConnell, Head of Canadian Content Development

Bio: Claire has worked in the film industry for over 15 years, beginning her career at TIFF and the Kingston Canadian Film Festival before moving into theatrical distribution. At Alliance Films and then eOne, she held the role of Director, Publicity and Promotions until 2015. She then moved to VVS Films, where she is currently the Head of Public Relations and Canadian Content Development.

Company Profile: VVS Films is a leading motion picture distribution company with over 40 years of business in Canada. In September of 2023, it expanded its distribution footprint to Australia and New Zealand.

Looking For: At the Nova Scotia Content Market, VVS is interested in hearing about feature-length films with commercial appeal that are seeking a Canadian distribution partner. Films at any stage in development will be considered.