



2025 Nova Scotia Content Market

Hosted by Screen Nova Scotia, the 9th annual Nova Scotia Content Market (October 6-7, 2025) 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.

I. Attending Delegates

IN-PERSON: These 25 delegates are attending the in-person market on October 7th

- [Bell FibeTV1: Paul Gardner, Senior Producer](#)
- [Bell Media: Adam Feigen, Development Executive, Scripted, Original Programming](#)
- [Blink49 Studios: Mackenzie Donaldson, VP, Scripted Television](#)
- [Blink49 Studios: Allison Brough, SVP, Unscripted Television](#)
- [Blue Ant Media: Sam Linton, VP Production and Development, Global Media](#)
- [CBC Comedy: Sarah Quan, Executive in Charge of Development](#)
- [CBC Unscripted: Nic Meloney, Executive in Charge of Production, Documentary & Factual Programming](#)
- [Corus Entertainment: Debbie Brown, Production Executive, Original Programming \(Lifestyle & Factual\)](#)
- [Corus Entertainment: Lynne Carter, Director, Original Programming \(Unscripted & Scripted\)](#)
- [The Coven / Foxglove: Anelle Dehghani, Head of Sales](#)
- [Elevation Pictures: Michael O'Leary, Vice President, Marketing & Creative](#)
- [Epic Pictures: Tata Pemova, Senior Manager, Sales](#)
- [Game Theory Films: Richelle Charkot, Distribution Manager](#)
- [Lionsgate Canada: Jessica Liadsky, Manager, Scripted Development, Television](#)
- [Lionsgate Canada: Christine Diakos, VP, Unscripted](#)
- [Mongrel Media: Alison Inkpen, Sales & Acquisitions](#)
- [Muse Entertainment: Jesse Prupas, SVP, Scripted](#)
- [Neshama: Mitch Geddes, Vice President, Development & Current Production](#)
- [Paramount+ and Pluto TV, Paramount Global: Vanessa Case, Vice President, Content](#)
- [Photon Films: Sardé Hardie, Director, Sales & Acquisitions](#)
- [Quiver Distribution: Billy Schwartz, Manager, Content Acquisition](#)



- [Raven Banner Entertainment: Michael Paszt, Managing Partner](#)
- [Rogers Sports & Media: Bryn Wiebe, Original Programming Manager](#)
- [SuperChannel: Kimberly Ball, Chief Content & Communications Officer](#)

VIRTUAL: These 30 delegates are attending the virtual market on October 6th

- [Abacus-Sphere: Will Stapley, Head of Acquisitions](#)
- [A+E Global Media: Michael Gelman, VP, Acquisitions & Co-Productions](#)
- [Amazon MGM Studios: Catherine Casey, Senior Creative Executive, Unscripted](#)
- [AMI: Karen Magee, Content Development - Eastern Canada](#)
- [APTN: Sylvain Lévesque, Documentary and French Content Executive](#)
- [APTN: Cole Vandale, Executive in Charge of Scripted Content and Project Development](#)
- [Bankside: Lisa Leach, Manager, Acquisitions - North America, and Abdi Ali, Acquisitions & Development Manager \(taking meetings together\)](#)
- [Bell Media / Crave: Natalie Igelfeld, Senior Manager, Content Strategy & Planning](#)
- [Bell Media / Discovery Networks: Heather Williamson, Production Executive, Original Programming, Factual & Reality](#)
- [Blue Fox Entertainment: Kalani Dreimanis, VP, International Sales](#)
- [Blue Ice Docs: Robin Smith, President](#)
- [CBC Drama: Lea Marin, Director of Development](#)
- [CBC Films: Gosia Kamela, Head of CBC Films](#)
- [Cineflex Media: Elizabeth Kantor, Director of Development](#)
- [Cineflix Rights: Giuliana Benvenuto, Senior Manager, Acquisitions, North America](#)
- [Films Boutique: Gabor Greiner, COO](#)
- [The Film Collaborative: Orly Ravid, Founder & Co-Executive Director, and David Averbach, Creative Director & Director of Distribution \(taking meetings together\)](#)
- [FilmSeekers: Ethan Cross, Sales & Acquisitions Executive](#)
- [Films We Like: Mercy Lam, Acquisitions, Marketing & Publicity Manager](#)
- [Hollywood Suite: Sharon Stevens, Vice President, Programming, and Susan Marshall, Senior Manager, Programming \(taking meetings together\)](#)
- [LevelK: Natascha Degnova, Acquisitions & Head of PR and Marketing](#)
- [Mongrel Media: Andrew Frank, Co-President and Marko Orlic, Director, Acquisitions and Sales \(taking meetings together\)](#)
- [MUBI: Imogen Faris, Senior Production and Development Manager and Zoë Heimann, Production Assistant \(taking meetings together\)](#)
- [National Geographic International: Sarah Peat, Commissioning Executive Producer](#)
- [OUTtv: Lauren Whitelaw, Head of Programming](#)



- [PBS / POV: Robert Chang, Co-Producer, POV](#)
- [Pink Parrot Media: Tania Pinto Da Cunha, Vice President & Partner](#)
- [Vortex Pictures: Matt Orenstein, Vice President, Acquisitions and Strategy](#)
- [VVS: Claire Peace-McConnell, Head of Public Relations and Canadian Content Development](#)
- [WestEnd Films: Toby Hill, Head of Acquisitions](#)

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 one-on-one with our local funders and financiers who will be available during the market.

- Canada Media Fund: Susy MacGillivray, Business Analyst, CMF Program Administration (in-person on October 7th)
- National Bank of Canada: Lucie Marion, Manager, Creative Industries Group (in-person on October 7th)
- RBC - Royal Bank of Canada: Megan MacDonald-Allen, Relationship Manager, Commercial Financial Services - Media & Entertainment (in-person on October 7th)
- Telefilm Canada: Shelley MacDougall, Feature Film Executive, Indigenous Content and Development (in-person on October 7th - also speaking to programs beyond the Indigenous streams)
- Telefilm Canada: Erin Burke, Interim Feature Film Executive, Atlantic Canada (virtual on October 6th)

II. Company Profiles & Bios

We ask that all producers carefully read the company profiles and bios of the attending delegates before making meeting requests, to ensure they will be a good fit for the projects on your slate.

Abacus-Sphere: Will Stapley, Head of Acquisitions

Bio: Will is responsible for managing and developing the scripted and unscripted acquisitions strategy at Sphere Abacus (a Bell Media Company), one of the world's leading distribution companies. Will works closely with international producers assisting with deficit financing and co-productions as well as feeding back and advising on editorial.



His recent Executive Producer credits include dramas, The Game (Channel 5) and Hunting Alice Bell (Channel 4). Will has worked in international distribution for 15 years on both the sales and acquisitions side in all territories worldwide.

Company Profile: Sphere Abacus is the worldwide sales arm of Sphere Media, operating alongside the company's highly successful production business. In addition, Sphere Abacus acquires and distributes a diverse slate of premium, multi-genre programming created by exceptional third-party producers for the global content market.

At the same time, the company also works with independent producers to facilitate pre-sales and development finance as well as broadcaster commissions. Embracing a fully transparent reporting ethos throughout, Sphere Abacus focuses on building strong client relationships and generating positive solutions at every stage of the process, from initial financing to worldwide broadcast to successfully deliver scripted and non-scripted entertainment that counts to a global audience.

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 composed 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.



Amazon MGM Studios: Catherine Casey, Senior Creative Executive, Unscripted

Bio: Catherine Casey is a Senior Global Unscripted Creative Executive who oversees international formats as well as Canada and Australia's unscripted original programming. She and her team are responsible for identifying, developing, and franchising unscripted formats across Prime Video's international markets. Catherine plays a key role in launching and scaling unscripted content in both established and emerging territories and serves as the lead creative for all of Canada and Australia's unscripted programming (limited docuseries and unscripted formats).

Company Profile: Coming soon

AMI: Karen Magee, 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 AMItélé.ca.

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

APTN: Sylvain Lévesque, Documentary and French Content Executive

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 at home and abroad. A respected charitable media company, APTN inspires audiences and shares authentic stories via three platforms: APTN (English and French channel), APTN Languages (Indigenous language channel), and APTN lumi (streaming service). APTN proudly features over 80% Canadian content on all three platforms.

APTN: Cole Vandale, Executive in Charge of Scripted Content and Project Development

Bio: Born and raised in Invermere, B.C., and a proud member of the Métis Nation of Alberta, Cole Vandale is a filmmaker with over 10 years of experience in the entertainment industry. He began his career as a performer, later moving behind the camera and eventually expanding into writing, directing and producing.

Over the years, Cole has produced award-winning short films that have screened at festivals such as the Vancouver International Film Festival, imagineNATIVE, Māoriland, the American Indian Film Festival and many others. He recently worked as a writer and second director on the APTN series Bears' Lair and as associate producer for the interactive feature Inheritance. His short film Starlight was a finalist for the Sundance Ignite x Adobe Fellowship.

Cole completed Capilano University's Filmmakers in Indigenous Leadership & Management Business Affairs (FILMBA) program, the NSI Access BIPOC Producers program and the IM4 Virtual Production Storytelling Micro-Credential.



He joined APTN in 2025 as development and scripted production executive, and he is eager to champion emerging Indigenous voices in this role.

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Bankside: Lisa Leach, Manager, Acquisitions - North America, and Abdi Ali, Acquisitions & Development Manager

Please note: Lisa and Abdi are taking meetings as a team.

Lisa Leach Bio: Lisa is a Development & Acquisitions Executive at Bankside Films, where she scouts and identifies distinctive projects for the international marketplace. With a background as a producer and graduate of the NFTS Producing MA, she brings both creative sensitivity and market insight.

Abdi Ali 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.

Company Profile: Founded in London in 2007, Bankside Films is a leading international sales company providing worldwide distribution, executive producing and financing services to independent producers globally. The company also originates its own projects and partners with filmmakers to develop new material. The company is driven by a passion for storytelling which challenges the status quo.

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 FibeTV1: 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.

Paul is a graduate of Niagara College's Broadcasting program where he majored in film studies.

Fibe TV1 is your source for local programming, made right in your backyard, by your community. TV1 is a group of community channels operated by Bell Canada's Fibe TV and Fibre OP TV.

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.

Bell Media: Adam Feigen, 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.

Looking For: Scripted comedy and drama series.

Bell Media / Crave: Natalie Igelfeld, Senior Manager, Content Strategy & Planning

Bio: Natalie leads content & programming strategy across Bell Media's English entertainment brands including Crave, CTV, Bell Media's suite of specialty channels (CTV Comedy Channel, CTV Drama Channel, CTV Life Channel, CTV Sci-Fi Channel, CTV Wild Channel, CTV Nature Channel, CTV Speed Channel, USA Network, Oxygen True Crime, Much, and E!), and digital channels CTV Throwback & CTV Movies, in addition to Bell Media's growing FAST channel portfolio.

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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.

Looking for: Completed content for acquisition (series, features, shorts), Canadian series in earlier stages of development, Canadian feature films & documentaries in packaging stages.

Bell Media / Discovery Networks: Heather Williamson, 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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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.

Blink49 Studios: Mackenzie Donaldson, VP, Scripted Television

Bio: Mackenzie Donaldson is an accomplished producer and creative executive with over a decade of experience developing and producing premium scripted content. She is currently VP of Scripted Television at Blink49 Studios, where she oversees a slate of bold, globally minded series and international co-productions. Her producing credits include the Emmy-winning Orphan Black (BBC America), Snowpiercer (TNT/Netflix), and acclaimed documentaries such as Citizen Bio (Showtime) and The Abnormal Beauty Company, winner of the 2025 Tribeca X Award for Best Feature Film. Known for championing distinctive voices and elevated genre, Mackenzie brings both a director's eye and a producer's expertise to every project, with a commitment to building inclusive production models across scripted and documentary formats.

Company Profile: Blink49 Studios is a full-service independent studio that develops, produces, and monetizes premium scripted, unscripted, and original content created in partnership with brands for global audiences. Headquartered in Toronto with offices in Los Angeles, Vancouver, and New York, the company was launched in partnership with anchor investor and strategic partner FIFTH SEASON. In 2025, it was announced that Bell Media would make a strategic investment in Blink49, further strengthening its

position in the North American media landscape.

With investments in Front Street Pictures and digital comedy studio Stapleview, along with the acquisition of Pier21 Films, Blink49 has significantly expanded its vertically integrated operations across Canada and the U.S. The studio's content-first approach is fuelled by strong creative partnerships and a commitment to championing new and diverse voices across both traditional and digital-first platforms, including supporting those working in the ever-evolving creator economy.

Named Playback's Producer of the Year (2024) and Dealmaker of the Year (2022), Blink49's slate includes scripted hits like Wild Cards (CBC/The CW), The Trades (Crave), and Late Bloomer (Crave), as well as unscripted titles such as Queen of the Castle (CTV Life), Beast Games (Prime Video), Romcon: Who The F**k is Jason Porter? (Prime Video), The Braxtons, and Toya & Reginae (We TV) as well as new series Yaga (Crave), Blue Collar (Crave), Come Dine With Me (Rogers) and the untitled docuseries featuring prominent, multi-hyphenate female CEOs (Prime Video). Library titles include Sight Unseen (CTV/The CW), Ride (The CW), Don't Even (Crave/APTN), Run the Burbs (CBC, The CW, Hulu), and The Beaverton (CTV).

Blink49 Studios: Allison Brough, SVP, Unscripted Television

Bio: Allison Brough serves as the Senior Vice President of Unscripted Television for Blink49 Studios. She has recently executive produced, "Queen of the Castle" (Crave) and Rom Com: Who the F*** is Jason Porter on Amazon. In her previous role, she was the Vice President of Development, Unscripted Television, and Head of Podcast Network at eOne. During her tenure, she innovated and sustained a 'podcast to broadcast' model and managed an extensive portfolio of unscripted television projects, including "Project Bakeover" (Food Network) and the award-winning four-part series "Thunder Bay" (CTV/Crave).

Before joining eOne, Allison was the Director of Development at Lone Eagle Entertainment, where she played a pivotal role in launching several green-lit projects such as "Meme gURL" (Slice Network) and "The Ultimate Food Bucket List" (Food Network). Additionally, she held the position of Development Executive at Tricon Films and Television, contributing to popular series like "Après Ski" (Bravo), "Restaurant Takeover" (Food Network), "Pop-Up Gourmet" (OWN), and "The Expendables" (HGTV).

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

Bio: Sam Linton brings over 35 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 *My Haunted Hometown*, *A Ghost Ruined My Life with Eli Roth*, *History's Most Haunted*, *Hope for Wildlife: The Next Generation*, *History by the Numbers*, *Mysteries from Above*, *Wild Rose Vets* 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 began her career at CTV National News, working in pretty much every role in the newsroom from editorial assistant to Senior Story Producer. Sam



is also committed to mentoring and training the next generation of storytellers through her work in both the Canadian television industry and her role as an active member, and former board director, at WIFT-T. Additionally, Sam serves as an advisor to the Broadcasting Program at Centennial College.

Company Profile: Blue Ant Media is an international streamer, production studio and rights business. 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 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, Total Crime, Declassified and Love Pets. Blue Ant is headquartered in Toronto, with presence in Los Angeles, New York, Singapore, London, Washington, Sydney, Halifax and Ottawa. blueantmedia.com

Blue Fox Entertainment: Kalani Dreimanis, VP, International Sales

Bio: Kalani Dreimanis is Vice President, International Sales at Blue Fox Entertainment. Most recently, she served as Executive Producer on Holy Days, starring Jacki Weaver, Miriam Margolyes, and Judy Davis, and the Tubi original films Sidelined: The QB and Me and Sidelined 2: Intercepted. At Blue Fox, Kalani also represents such titles as Uproar, starring Minnie Driver and Julian Dennisen, and Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe, starring Eugenio Derbez and Eva Longoria, of which both films were official selection titles at the Toronto International Film Festival.

Hailing from Toronto, Kalani has more than 12 years of 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 SXSW Film Festival official selection Extra Ordinary, starring Will Forte, TIFF official selection title Sea Fever, starring Dougray Scott and Connie Nielsen, and SXSW title The Cellar, starring Elisha Cuthbert, and served as executive producer on Fantasia Film Festival official selection titles Dark Nature and Polaris. Prior to Epic, Kalani held the position of Manager, International Sales at Myriad Pictures, where she worked on such titles as Sundance official selection The Last Word, starring Shirley MacLaine and Amanda Seyfried. She began her career in Hollywood working in development and production at Straight Up Films, where she worked on such titles as Transcendence starring Johnny Depp, Rebecca Hall, Cillian Murphy, Paul Bettany, Kate Mara, and Morgan Freeman, and Jane Got A Gun, starring Natalie Portman, Joel Edgerton, and Ewan McGregor.

Company Profile: Blue Fox Entertainment is an international film sales and domestic distribution 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 Entertainment's recent international sales titles include *Sidelined: The QB and Me* based on the Wattpad novel starring TikTok influencer Noah Beck in his feature acting debut and Siena Agudong from Netflix's *Resident Evil* series; the sci-fi adventure *XENO* produced by Kevin Hart and his global entertainment company, starring Lulu Wilson, Wrenn Schmidt, Paul Schneider and Omari Hardwick; Nat Bolt's heartwarming comedic adventure *Holy Days* starring Judy Davis, Miriam Margolyes and Jacki Weaver; *The Panic*, the financial thriller starring Cary Elwes, Malcolm McDowell, Justin Chatwin, and Cristiana Dell'Anna; *Site*, the sci-fi thriller starring Arielle Kebbel, Jake McLaughlin and Theo Rossi; *Uproar*, the compelling and inspirational story starring Julian Dennison, Minnie Driver, and James Rolleston; the inspirational true story *Lost on a Mountain in Maine* produced by Sylvester Stallone; and *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe*, based on the bestselling novel and produced by Lin-Manuel Miranda.

Blue Fox Entertainment's recent US release slate includes the award-winning animated feature *Kensuke's Kingdom* starring Cillian Murphy, Sally Hawkins, Ken Watanabe and Aaron MacGregor; the inspirational true story *Lost on a Mountain in Maine* produced by Sylvester Stallone; *Hard Miles* starring Matthew Modine and Sean Astin; *Fitting In* starring Maddie Ziegler, *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe*, based on the bestselling novel and produced by Lin-Manuel Miranda; the acclaimed stop-motion animation *The Inventor* featuring the voices of Stephen Fry, Daisy Ridley and Marion Cotillard, and the family-friendly adventure *Autumn and the Black Jaguar* from *The Wolf and the Lion* director Gilles de Maistre.

The company recently launched their Canadian arm Blue Fox Entertainment Canada, as well as Blue Fox Financing, the first transactional digital platform to streamline and expedite film financing opportunities for the entertainment industry, connecting borrowers with the largest database of film and television lenders and equity financiers. www.bluefoxentertainment.com

Blue Ice Docs: Robin Smith, President

Bio: Robin Smith is currently the Director of Programming for the Whistler Film Festival and 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 brings a strong background of over 30 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, Lionsgate 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 the TIFF select documentary YOUR TOMORROW (dir: Ali Weinstein).

Company Profile: Working under the umbrella of the [Blue Ice Group](#), Blue Ice Docs 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.

Looking For: Strong theatrical feature length documentaries as well as non-fiction serial content.

CBC Comedy: Sarah Quan, Executive in Charge of Development

Bio: As the Executive in Charge of Development for CBC Comedy, Sarah is responsible for cultivating the network's original scripted comedy series development slate. Most recently she oversaw the development of Small Achievable Goals and One More Time. Prior to joining CBC, she served as Creative Executive at Northwood Entertainment developing North of North and working on shows and features, including Anne With An E and The Grizzlies. 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.

Before pitching CBC Comedy, please visit our website [HERE](#).

Looking For: 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

CBC Drama: Lea Marin, Director of Development

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 recent productions, Saint-Pierre, 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, and Charles Officer's Unarmed Verses.

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. 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.

Before pitching CBC Drama, please visit our website [HERE](#).

Looking For: We are most actively looking for contemporary, ongoing procedurals grounded by dazzling characters. We want a strong hook, heart and significant, palpable stakes. We look for serialized programming as well, ongoing or limited series. In this realm, stories that represent themes of significant Canadian identity are prioritized.

We would love to see your pitch for the key priority arenas of crime series, compelling mysteries, inventive family/workplace dramas, and grounded supernatural series. We love it when there is a sparky, romantic dynamic naturally woven into the telling. Escapism is exciting to us.

We consider all formats (aside from MOWs) but generally speaking we are less actively looking for historical dramas or darker-themed programming at the moment. Also hard Sci-fi and YA programming is less of a priority.

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 Mike End Kicks, Deaner '89, BlackBerry, and Bones of Crows. Previously, as an Executive at Bell Media, Gosia was responsible for the development and production of original scripted series across CTV and Crave. A few notable series credits include Orphan Black, Transplant, and Degassi. 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 aims to reflect, represent, and reframe the Canadian experience through supporting authentic Canadian storytelling. Committed to creative excellence, cultural relevance and talent development, CBC Films supports feature films that reflect, represent, and reframe a range of perspectives at the centre of the Canadian experience. We prioritize storytelling that amplifies equity deserving communities, along with a parallel commitment to gender parity. We are committed to creative excellence, cultural relevance, and talent development.

Looking For: CBC is committed to being the public space for critically acclaimed Canadian films. We selectively invest in high-quality productions in a variety of genres. We are looking for meaningful and contemporary Canadian stories to air on CBC for our summer series and stream on CBC Gem, with the goal of broadening audiences for Canadian cinema.

Through a highly competitive evaluation, CBC Films supports a selective number of projects annually through a TV license, which are negotiated on a case-by-case basis.

CBC Unscripted: Nic Meloney, Executive in Charge of Production, Documentary & Factual Programming

Bio: Nic Meloney is a mixed Wolastoqi/Canadian Journalist and Production Executive with CBC Unscripted. Working closely with Inuit, Métis and First Nations independent in both documentary and factual productions (as well as non-Indigenous), he's also a co-author and advisor to the Indigenous-led team delivering [CBC/Radio-Canada's National Indigenous Strategy](#).

A member of Woodstock First Nation (NB) and a proud Cape Bretoner (NS), he currently lives in Toronto.

Nic previously worked as a reporter and video producer with CBC Nova Scotia and CBC Indigenous, covering the Atlantic region. His work with CBC has taken him nationally and internationally to Indigenous territories for the production and development of news, theatrical and television documentaries, as well as syndicated, local and national radio news content, and speaking engagements.

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 Media: Elizabeth Kantor, Director of Development

Bio: Elizabeth is Director of Development at Cineflix, where she oversees the creation of unscripted programming. She has worked across genres for major broadcasters and brands in Canada, the US, and the UK, with in-house experience at VICE, TIME Studios and The Economist's documentary films unit. A graduate of the NFTS Factual Development and Production Diploma and the National Theatre School's Design and Technical Arts program, Elizabeth also holds a BA in Political Science and Philosophy from the University of Ottawa.

Company Profile: Cineflix creates, produces, and distributes must-watch TV for broadcasters, streamers, YouTube, and FAST platforms worldwide with operations in Montreal, Toronto, New York, London, and Dublin.

A leading international media company, the Cineflix group includes Cineflix Productions, Cineflix Rights, and Cineflix Studios, as well as joint venture companies Buccaneer and C3 Media. We also share strategic partnerships through first-look deals and co-productions with a hub of producers from the US, UK, and Canada.

With a catalogue of more than 7,500 hours of select programming across a wide range of genres, Cineflix is behind some of TV's most popular and long-running shows.

Looking For: We're seeking bold unscripted opportunities in lifestyle, factual, and true crime. We want ideas that cut through the noise—big, splashy, and self-marketing—driven by strong talent, unique access, or exciting IP. From hit podcasts to hard-to-get worlds, we're focused on homegrown returnable and limited series with global appeal. At the end of the day, the strongest projects come from strong partnerships—we're seeking creative and strategic collaborators who share our vision for ambitious, globally resonant unscripted.

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

Bio: With fifteen 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'



unscripted 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 Entertainment: Debbie Brown, Production Executive, Original Programming

Please note: Debbie will be taking pitches for lifestyle and factual content.

Bio: Debbie Brown has been creating content for more than twenty years. For the last 13 years she has been a Production Executive in Original Programming for Corus Entertainment, overseeing hundreds of hours of lifestyle, reality and factual series including series like *Don't Hate Your House with the Property Brothers*, *Renovation Resort*, *Deadman's Curse: Legend of the Lost Gold*, *Masters of Flip*, *The Big Bake*, *Big Burger Battle*, *Great Chocolate Showdown*, *The Bachelor* and *Hockey Wives*.

Before joining Corus, Debbie was Anaid Productions' Director of Development and Head of Development for Infinity Films, where she had the opportunity to create content for the Vancouver 2010 Olympics. Debbie is excited by the ways in which the media landscape is constantly changing and looks forward to being a part of its ongoing evolution.

Company Profile: Corus Entertainment currently focuses on commissioning lifestyle series for Flavour and Home Networks. Additionally we consider factual series for History Channel and scripted dramas and procedurals for Global.

For Home Network, talent continues to be a key driver – we are always looking for passionate, credible experts to helm design, renovation and real estate series.



For Flavour Network, competition series resonate with and engage our prime time audiences and we are looking for new ways into the competition space with fresh and unexpected organizing principles and format points.

For History, we continue to seek out dynamic, larger-than-life personalities to drive authentic and exhilarating docu-follow series. We also consider utility-style programming , primarily looking at historical events through a unique and fresh lens.

Corus Entertainment: Lynne Carter, Director, Original Programming

Please note: Lynne will be taking pitches for unscripted and scripted content.

Bio: In her role as Director, Original Programming at Corus Entertainment, Lynne oversees the development and production of series for Flavour Network, Home Network, History, and Global, managing a team of Production Executives and driving the day-to-day operation of the Original Programming team.

Lynne is also Executive-in-Charge-of-Production on a varied slate of programs which currently include Top Chef Canada, House of Ali, and Private Eyes West Coast.

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The Coven / Foxglove: Anelle Dehghani, Head of Sales

Bio: With over a decade of experience in the genre space, Anelle Dehghani has focused her career on bringing elevated genre films to the global market. Previously working at



Raven Banner Entertainment, she has represented titles such as *The Autopsy of Jane Doe*, *Tigers are Not Afraid*, and *The Sadness*.

In 2024, Anelle joined The Coven, a female-led production and sales label that dominated the box office with *Terrifier 3*, continuing her mission to represent elevated films, find unique voices, and grow with emerging talent from all over the world.

Company Profile: Female-owned and operated The Coven was founded in 2021. With a distinctive focus on genre films, our team excels at connecting visionary filmmakers with global distributors to bring bold, compelling stories to screens worldwide. As the producers and sales agents for *Terrifier 3*, the highest-grossing unrated film of all time, we have proven expertise in generating high-impact results for unconventional and boundary-pushing projects.

Operating out of our offices in France, Toronto, and Los Angeles, we combine a global perspective with industry insights to strategically position films for maximum reach and profitability. With a deep understanding of market trends, audience preferences, and distribution strategies, we are uniquely equipped to champion projects that challenge the norm while meeting commercial demands.

Looking For: Our commitment to excellence, genre specialization, and fostering underrepresented voices make us a trusted partner in navigating the evolving landscape of film distribution. The Coven remains dedicated to reshaping industry standards and delivering remarkable stories that resonate with diverse, global audiences.

The Coven's sister company Foxglove, is currently looking for commercial stories in the comedy, romance, and kids animation space.

Elevation Pictures: Michael O'Leary, Vice President, Marketing & Creative

Bio: Michael O'Leary is currently the Vice President of Marketing & Creative at Elevation Pictures where he has led successful campaigns for such films as *The Imitation Game*, *Moonlight*, *Everything Everywhere All at Once* and more recently, *Conclave* and *Anora*. He is integral in the creation of all marketing materials and media campaigns for Elevation's Canadian titles, including *BlackBerry* and *Rumours*. Michael has over 15 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*, *Anora*, *Moonlight*, *Everything Everywhere All at Once*, *Anatomy of a Fall* and *The Brutalist*.

Elevation Pictures is also known for its strong slate of Canadian films, *BlackBerry* starring Jay Baruchel, *Rumours* starring Cate Blanchett, *Brother* starring Lamar Johnson and Elevation productions *Alice*, *Darling* starring Anna Kendrick, *Infinity Pool* starring Mia Goth. For more information, please visit elevationpictures.com

Films Boutique: Gabor Greiner, COO

Bio: After his studies of Cultural Management in Vienna, Birmingham and Chicago, Gabor GREINER worked as a journalist and film critic. In 2003, he moved to Brussels to take charge of the distribution support department of the MEDIA Program at the European Commission's Film Fund. In 2009, Gabor became acquisitions executive at the international sales agent, The Match Factory. In August 2010, Gabor moved to Berlin to take over acquisitions of the French-German sales company, Films Boutique, winner of the Golden Bear in 2017 and 2020 and the Golden Lion in 2011 and 2016.

Gabor is a member of the European Film Academy and an active collaborator of Torino Film Lab and EAVE.

Company Profile: Films Boutique is a Berlin and Lyon-based sales outfit specialized in international distribution of innovative feature films by filmmakers from all continents.

The company launches 12 to 15 new titles every year in the most prestigious festivals going back to basics: focus on a limited number of high profile titles and treat films as unique filmmakers visions that can reach a global audience.

Films Boutique's references include international distribution on award-winning films such as Oscar nominated films EMBRACE OF THE SERPENT, BORDER, LUNANA: A YAK IN THE CLASSROOM, Berlinale Golden bear winners ON BODY AND SOUL and THERE IS NO EVIL, Venice Golden Lion winners FAUST and THE WOMAN WHO LEFT, Cannes Camera d'or winner DIVINES and award-winning films BIRDS OF PASSAGE, THE TURIN HORSE, SHEHERAZADE, WALESA: MAN OF HOPE and PACIFICTION among many others.

Epic Pictures: Tata Pemova, Senior Manager, Sales



Bio: Based in Montreal, Tata Pemova has over ten years of experience in international sales and twelve years in the film industry. Since joining Epic Pictures in 2022, she has focused on international sales while also contributing to acquisitions and development. Working as part of the sales team, Tata co-sells a diverse catalog of commercial indie films and oversees specific international territories, collaborating closely with distributors and platforms worldwide. She represents Epic at leading global film markets, including Marché du Film, EFM, AFM, TIFF, Busan, and Filmart.

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 to 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.

Looking For: At this year's Content Market, Epic Pictures is looking for:

- Action, Sci-Fi, Horror, Western
- High-concept, elevated stories
- Female-driven narratives
- Female-led thrillers

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

Please note: Orly and David are taking meetings as a team.

Orly Ravid Bio: As the Founder and Co-Executive Director of The Film Collaborative (TFC), an Entertainment Attorney, and an Associate Professor of Law and the Associate Dean of the Biederman Entertainment, Media, & Sports Law Institute at Southwestern Law School, Orly balances a career in independent film and entertainment law. Orly has over 25 years of experience in independent film as an acquisitions and business affairs executive, and her experience encompasses all aspects of distribution, domestic and international sales/licensing, development, production, grassroots marketing, and festival programming. Orly started doing and public speaking about VOD distribution and splitting rights in the early 2000s and Orly launched TFC's Digital Distribution Guide and

many other resources in its Distripedia™. Orly was a distribution executive at Senator Entertainment and Wolfe Releasing and served as a Programming Associate for documentaries at Sundance Film Festival and a programming consultant at both the Palm Springs International and the Middle East Film Festival in Abu Dhabi. A regular panelist, educator, and blogger about digital distributing, splitting rights, and distribution in general at film festivals worldwide and overseeing TFC's Distripedia educational resources, Orly has also contributed to indieWIRE, Ted Hope's blog "Truly Free Film," TFC's blog, and Sundance's Artists Services for which she was an advisor. Orly is proud of TFC's latest initiative, Peaced Off (<https://www.getpeacedoff.com>), a film and conversation series exploring the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

David Averbacher 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, Korea 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 offers independent filmmakers a full range of education about distribution, distribution services and marketing services including sales representation, service theatrical releases, hybrid distribution, grassroots marketing, traditional marketing, digital aggregation, distribution consultation and contract consultation.

FilmSeekers: Ethan Cross, Sales & Acquisitions Executive

Bio: Ethan graduated from Birkbeck, University of London, with a Distinction in MA Film and Screen Media with Film Programming and Curation. He also holds a BA in English Literature from the University of Leeds. During his Masters, he undertook a number of internships within sales and distribution companies including Alliance Media Partners, Altitude and FilmSeekers during the European Film Market. Ethan has also worked and programmed at film festivals including BFI Future Film Festival and the London East Asia Film Festival, finding a real desire to connect audiences from around the world with great films.

Coupling knowledge of a wide range of films with an instinct for what works, he joined FilmSeekers on a permanent basis as a Sales and Marketing Assistant in 2021, working his way up to Sales & Acquisitions Executive and handling sales in a number of

territories, acquisitions strategy and festival campaigns. He was selected as one of eight rising film executives to take part in the Zurich Film Festival's Summit Climber programme in 2024.

Company Profile: FilmSeekers is a London-based international sales agency, acquiring 6-8 films a year, focusing on commercially driven feature films. Working with new and established filmmakers, from development to distribution, we specialise in uplifting dramas and elevated genre. Successes include feelgood drama *Love Sarah*, which released theatrically worldwide, *The Witch in the Window*, an elevated horror that sold on multi-territory deals, and Australian Box Office smash *June Again*, released by Studio Canal and nominated for four Academy Awards domestically. This year, action revenge film *Sunray: Fallen Soldier* pre-sold a number of key territories before being released theatrically early 2025 and then rocketed to number 1 on the Apple Digital Pre-order charts.

FilmSeekers France, was launched in 2022 and is the European branch of FilmSeekers, focusing on commercially driven European feature films including festival favourite French horror *Pandemonium* and Flemish family action-adventure *The Mercator Trail*. The upcoming FilmSeekers slate is incredibly eclectic, from Bolivia-set magical realism fable *Cielo* to the new Simon Rumley film, Bangkok-set kidnapping thriller *Crushed*, both of which are currently enjoying successful festival runs.

Films We Like: Mercy Lam, Acquisitions, Marketing & Publicity Manager

Bio: Mercy is a film distributor specialising in acquisitions, publicity, and digital marketing at Films We Like. She plays a key role in bringing critically acclaimed independent and arthouse films and documentaries to Canadian audiences, curating a prestigious slate that includes *Drive My Car* (2021), *EO* (2022), *Sugarcane* (2024), and *Flow* (2024).

Company Profile: [Films We Like](#) is a boutique distributor of documentary, independent, and international cinema in Canada.

Looking For: We are currently seeking fully completed feature films and documentaries for Canadian all-rights distribution.

Game Theory Films: Richelle Charkot, Distribution Manager

Bio: Richelle Charkot has worked in various facets of the film industry; including



production, programming, journalism and public relations. They were the Programming Director of The Royal Cinema, where their experience with film exhibition led to an interest in distribution. They completed their Canadian Media Producers Association mentorship with the producers of the Canadian Screen Award winning film *Wildhood*, and studied screenwriting at the Toronto Film School where they graduated with distinction.

Richelle has provided script coverage for Sundance Labs, Raven Banner Entertainment, Rebel Road Films and Younger Daughter Films, and loves working with writers on story development.

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 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.

Hollywood Suite: Sharon Stevens, Vice President, Programming, and Suzanne Marshall, Senior Manager, Programming

Please note: Sharon and Suzanne are taking meetings as a team.

Sharon Stevens Bio: An industry leader, mentor, and advocate for creators, Sharon Stevens brings over 20 years of experience in the film and television industry. As Vice-President of Programming at Hollywood Suite, she has played a key role in the company's growth through her expertise in negotiations, acquisitions, scheduling, and programming. Sharon is a passionate supporter of the Canadian screen industry, with a focus on championing underrepresented voices and helping both emerging and established filmmakers bring their stories to life. She regularly shares her insights through industry panels, mentorship initiatives, film festivals, and is on the Board of Directors for the Reelworld Screen Institute. Outside of work, Sharon is a proud dog mom, a devoted cinephile, and an unapologetic admirer of Keanu Reeves.

Suzanne Marshall Bio: Suzanne Marshall brings over a decade of experience in the Canadian film and television industry, with past roles at the Toronto International Film Festival and the Canadian Film Centre.

As Senior Manager of Programming at Hollywood Suite, she oversees all aspects of



programming, acquisitions, scheduling, and production commissioning. She is integral to the curation and acquisition strategy of Hollywood Suite's branded channels. A dedicated supporter of emerging voices, Suzanne works closely with the Canadian production community and is known for her ability to find innovative, practical solutions for independent projects, whether they are in development, production, or post. She has a strong understanding of the Canadian funding landscape and frequently advises filmmakers on how to navigate and access key programs such as Telefilm Canada, the Canada Media Fund, and various regional agencies. Her guidance has helped bring numerous independent projects to life, from pitch to screen.

With her deep industry knowledge and collaborative approach, Suzanne remains an invaluable resource for filmmakers navigating the Canadian media landscape.

Company Profile: Hollywood Suite is curated by real movie lovers and is dedicated to showcasing must-see films from yesterday to today, alongside exclusive new series from around the world. We bring audiences nostalgic favourites, hidden gems, and modern hits on-demand and across our four channels, always uncut and commercial-free.

Looking For: Here at the Nova Scotia Content Market, we are looking to connect with Canadian filmmakers and producers, whether they are seasoned veterans or just starting out. While our primary focus is on feature films, we also support select documentaries and series, and we welcome conversations about projects at any stage of development from pre-development to post-production. Above all, we are looking for good stories, unique voices, and compelling perspectives that will resonate with audiences. We look forward to being a part of this fantastic market!

LevelK: Natascha Degnova, Acquisitions & Head of PR and Marketing

Bio: Natascha Degnova has studied directing and producing at Raindance London, majored in screenwriting & minored in cinematography at FAMU Film School Prague. She has a BA in art history and a MA in visual culture and communication, with specialisation in transmedia marketing, advertising and campaigning. She has previously worked at DFI international, Nordisk Film, taught at Super16, as well as been a film/art critic/journalist and freelance photographer.

She has worked at LevelK for 6 1/2 years and handles B2B/B2C marketing and PR, strategy and consulting, as well as being part of the acquisitions team.

Company Profile: LevelK is a Copenhagen-based international film sales and aggregation house. Rooted in Nordic values such as trust, transparency, equality, and freedom of speech we employ a carefully targeted bespoke sales, marketing, and festivals strategy



for each of our titles. We mainly work on European and English language features with special focus on bold, original titles which have strong sales potential and festival presence. Be it elevated horror and thrillers, insightful queer stories, heartwarming family/animation, quirky comedies, or captivating dramas, we always find the quality and uniqueness in each title and make them stand out. In May of 2025 we partnered up with audience research and analyst company Publikum, in a joint effort to invest, as well as use AI and audience data in upcoming selected feature films, this way the titles find their best path to the right audiences.

At LevelK we have an innovative approach to cross-platform/cross-country distribution, specializing in rights optimizations combining theatrical and traditional means, alongside digital distribution and marketing.

Lionsgate Canada: Jessica Liadsky, Manager, Scripted Development, Television

Bio: As Manager of Scripted Development at Lionsgate Canada, Jessica develops dramatic and comedic series for Canada and the global co-production marketplace. Prior to her role at Lionsgate Canada, Jessica worked at eOne in the Family division across a slate of animated series. She subsequently went on to join eOne's prime-time team, serving as Manager of Scripted Development. Before delving into television, Jessica worked with theatre companies across the country.

Company Profile: Lionsgate Canada is a talent-driven leader in entertainment production and distribution, 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.

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 User's 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.

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.

Mongrel Media: Alison Inkpen, Sales & Acquisitions

Please Note: Alison Inkpen will be taking meetings for Regional projects/budgets under \$3.5M. For National projects/budgets over \$3.5M (ideally closer to \$5M) please request Andrew Frank and Marko Orlic, who will be taking virtual meetings (see their info below).

Bio: Alison Inkpen is the Sales and Acquisitions Coordinator at Mongrel Media. She oversees all duties for 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, and prides itself on building bold and uniquely customized distribution strategies for each film.

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.

Mongrel Media: Andrew Frank, Co-President and Marko Orlic, Director, Acquisitions and Sales

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

Andrew Frank Bio: Andrew Frank is Mongrel Media's Co-President. In addition to overseeing key customer relationships, he acquires films and negotiates deals at festivals and markets. He also serves as Executive Producer on all Mongrel Canadian acquisitions. Prior to working at Mongrel, he was a consultant for Robert Redford's Sundance Cinemas flagship theatre in Madison, WI. From 1999-2004, he owned and ran Visions Cinema in Washington, DC, a unique venue - part theatre for foreign and independent films, and part restaurant/bar. Before entering the film business, Andrew had a career in the coffee business; he invented and trademarked the Frappuccino while working for The Coffee Connection in Boston in the early 1990s.

Marko Orlic 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's worked in entertainment in a number of other capacities, ranging from festival programming and on-set production, to DJing and journalism. Major career passions include mentorship, writing, curation and podcasting.

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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.

Looking For: Key focus is National projects over \$3.5M budget (ideally, budgets over \$5M)

MUBI: Imogen Faris, Senior Production and Development Manager, and Zoë Heimann, Production Assistant (taking meetings together)

Imogen Faris Bio: Imogen Faris is Senior Production & Development Manager at MUBI, a global streaming service, production company and film distributor dedicated to elevating great cinema. Based out of MUBI's global headquarters in London, Imogen works within the company's production arm, supporting the international film slate.

Zoë Heimann Bio: Zoë joined the MUBI UK/International production team at the end of 2023 as a production assistant. She supports across the production and development slates, contributing to projects across all stages. Previously, she worked in commercial production in Berlin.

Company Profile: MUBI is a global streaming service, production company and film distributor dedicated to elevating great cinema. MUBI creates, curates, acquires and champions visionary films, bringing them to audiences all over the world. MUBI is a place to discover ambitious films by visionary filmmakers. From iconic directors to emerging auteurs. All carefully chosen by MUBI's curators. With MUBI GO, members in select countries can get a free ticket every week to see the best new films in cinemas. And Notebook explores all sides of cinema culture — both in print and online. Founded in 2007 by Efe Cakarel, MUBI is the biggest community of film lovers anywhere, with members across 190 different countries. MUBI acquired renowned sales agent and production company The Match Factory and Match Factory Productions in January 2022, and a majority stake in leading Benelux film distributor Cinéart in February 2024.

Looking For: MUBI is a global streaming service, production company and film distributor dedicated to elevating great cinema. MUBI creates, curates, acquires and champions visionary films, bringing them to audiences all over the world. We maintain a small, carefully curated production slate, selecting projects that are director-led, with no restrictions on genre or language.

Our focus is on bold, cinematic storytelling from visionary filmmakers - from



established voices or emerging auteurs. We are happy to review projects at any stage of production - from development, to financing/packaging and completion (rough cuts etc.).

Muse Entertainment: Jesse Prupas, SVP, Scripted

Bio: Please click [HERE](#).

Company Profile: Muse Entertainment is a leading Emmy® Award-winning independent content producer of scripted and unscripted programming for network and cable; motion pictures and streaming. The company was founded in 1998 by Michael Prupas. Muse Entertainment is known for producing some of the most successful original scripted programming in North America, including the critically acclaimed series Aurora Teagarden Mysteries (Hallmark), Being Human (SyFy), Bomb Girls (Global), Coroner (CBC, The CW), Human Trafficking (Lifetime, TMN), The Kennedys (History, Reelz), and Tut (Spike, History), as well as the award-winning, inspirational movies Christmas Jars (BYU), Cyberbully (Freeform/Disney+); Good Sam (Netflix) and the upcoming gay holiday romantic comedy Single All the Way (Netflix). Unscripted original projects include JFK: The Smoking Gun (Reelz) and For Heaven's Sake (Paramount+). Muse Entertainment's work-for-hire service content includes Stephen Spielberg's films Catch Me If You Can (DreamWorks) and The Terminal; Ang Lee's Life of Pi, television series Blood and Treasure (CBS), The Moodys (FOX), The Republic of Sara (The CW) and the mystery miniseries The Truth About the Harry Quebert Affair (TNT). The company has successfully teamed with international co-production partners in major markets including Australia, France, Germany, Hungary, Morocco, Romania, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland and the U.K. Muse Distribution International (MDI), the company's distribution arm, features a catalogue of over 800 hours of award-winning programming across all genres, including scripted series, documentaries, and family entertainment. Headquartered in Montreal, Quebec, Muse Entertainment has development and production operations in Toronto, Vancouver and Los Angeles. Visit: www.muse.ca

National Geographic International: Sarah Peat, Commissioning Executive Producer

Bio: Sarah Peat is a Commissioning Executive Producer for National Geographic



overseeing multiple productions as well as developing new series and specials for the channel.

Before joining the Nat Geo team, Sarah was an award-winning showrunner, executive producer and programme originator. She directed Barack Obama and the flagship episode of the Emmy-winning series Our Great National Parks for Netflix. As showrunner and programme originator for the series Dian Fossey: Secrets in the Mist for National Geographic, Sarah directed Sir David Attenborough and award-winning actress Sigourney Weaver.

Sarah has filmed all over the world, leading specialist teams in remote locations to create documentary content covering history, science, travel and wildlife. Her innovative programmes and work with leading talent has garnered her films the Disney Award for Innovation and the Popular Broadcast Awards at the Pandas. Her work has also been nominated at the World Congress of Science Producers, Canada's Gemini Awards and the UK's Broadcast Awards.

Her credits include series and specials for National Geographic, Netflix, BBC, CBC, Channel 4, ITV, PBS, and Channel 5.

Company Profile: Nat Geo International (linear channel) looks for returnable series in the following genres: big access/precinct pieces, engineering, and exploration. We look for ideas that deepen or enhance our understanding of the world.

We have various slots for series in this space along with 1 or 2 slots a year for host-led series where the talent (a recognised name) has genuine knowledge or expertise and can be the author of the topic they are exploring.

We also have 1 or 2 slots each year for one-off specials (anniversary pieces, etc) on globally recognised names/events.

We almost exclusively co-produce.

Neshama Entertainment: Mitch Geddes, Vice President, Development & Current Production

Bio: One of Playback's 10 to Watch for 2022, Mitch Geddes is the Vice President of Development & Current Production for Neshama Entertainment, responsible for



overseeing the creative affairs of original series and feature film projects for the studio through development and production. He currently manages a portfolio of projects including the fourth season of the original family drama THE WAY HOME (HALLMARK), and the previously announced PREJUDICE series in development with Bell Media and Fox Entertainment Global.

Previous to Neshama Entertainment, Mitch served as a Production Executive for Bell Media's Original Programming Team, overseeing the production of a variety of drama series including the CSA Award-winning drama series TRANSPLANT (CTV/NBC), the limited event series LITTLE BIRD (CRAVE/PBS), and the original paranormal drama SURREALESTATE (SYFY/CTV SCI FI), as well as a dynamic slate of films for CRAVE including Anthony Shim's RICEBOY SLEEPS and Fawzia Mirza's THE QUEEN OF MY DREAMS.

Company Profile: Headquartered in Toronto Canada, the award-winning Neshama Entertainment was formed in 2018 with a mission to source quality Canadian content for development, production and distribution. Neshama's projects span a large spectrum of formats and mediums, and are produced all throughout Canada and via international co-productions.

Neshama continues to seek co-production partners and Canadian talent including producers, actors, writers, editors, composers, directors and cinematographers. Neshama is currently developing in the spaces of one-hour dramas, comedy series, and premium unscripted content.

FOX Entertainment Studios is a shareholder in Neshama. FOX Entertainment Global handles worldwide distribution for all content developed and produced under the Neshama banner, while Neshama manages distribution within Canada. Along with over 50 television movies produced and a robust slate of television series, features and MOWs in development, Neshama is proudly producing its first one-hour series, the Hallmark Channel original drama The Way Home, which premiered early in 2023 and is now in its third season.

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+ and Pluto TV, Paramount Global: Vanessa Case, Vice President, 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: Paramount+ is a global premium digital subscription video streaming service from Paramount that features a mountain of premium entertainment for



audiences of all ages. Featuring content from Paramount brands; CBS, Showtime, MTV, Nickelodeon, Comedy Central and Paramount Pictures.

Paramount+ in Canada has made several notable commitments to original productions, reflecting our dedication to diverse content and support for local production.

Paramount+ has commenced production on the Canadian adaptation of MTV's renowned franchise, Jersey Shore, introducing this iconic series to Canadian audiences with a new cast. Additionally, starting from the fourth season, Paramount+ Canada has become the Canadian home for Sky Med, sharing earlier seasons with CBC Gem.

We are also excited to announce our satirical comedy, Hate the Player, produced by New Metric Media in collaboration with Anthem's Game TV. Furthermore, our feature documentary, The Pink Pill, produced in partnership with Catalyst and Everywomen Studios, will soon premiere on Paramount+.

These and other productions underscore our commitment to highlighting local Canadian content alongside the extensive variety of entertainment options available on Paramount+.

PBS / POV: Robert Y. Chang, Co-Producer, POV

Bio: Robert Y. Chang is the co-Producer of POV, the longest-running independent documentary showcase on American television. Since 1988, POV has presented films on PBS that capture the full spectrum of the human experience, with a long commitment to centering women and people of color in front of, and behind, the camera. Prior to joining POV, Robert was the Coordinating Producer of America ReFramed, where across five seasons, he facilitated the national broadcast premieres of nearly seventy independent films. As an Emmy-award winning television producer, Robert is a member of the Producers Guild of America, the Television Academy and has served as a juror, screener, programmer, panelist, and reviewer for a range of film festivals and arts funders. He has also judged for the IDA Awards, the Tellys, RTDNA Murrow Awards, and the News & Documentary Emmys. In 2020, DOC NYC awarded him a New Leader in Documentary Award. He also serves on the steering committee and bridge council of the Asian-American Documentary Network (A-Doc). As an independent filmmaker, Robert's work has screened worldwide at festivals and is distributed by Documentary Educational Resources (DER).

Company Profile:

About PBS: With more than 330 member stations, offers all Americans the opportunity to explore new ideas and new worlds through television and digital content. Each month, PBS reaches over 36 million adults on linear primetime television, more than 16 million



users on PBS-owned streaming platforms, 53 million viewers on YouTube, and 60 million people view PBS content on social media, inviting them to experience the worlds of science, history, nature, and public affairs and to take front-row seats to world-class drama and performances. PBS's broad array of programs has been consistently honored by the industry's most coveted award competitions. Teachers of children from pre-K through 12th grade turn to PBS LearningMedia for digital content and services that help bring classroom lessons to life. As the number one educational media brand, PBS KIDS helps children 2-8 build critical skills, enabling them to find success in school and life. Delivered through member stations, PBS KIDS offers high-quality content on TV — including a PBS KIDS channel — and streaming free on pbskids.org and the PBS KIDS Video app, games on the PBS KIDS Games app, and in communities across America.

About POV: Produced by American Documentary, POV is the longest-running independent documentary showcase on American television. Since 1988, POV has presented films on PBS that capture the full spectrum of the human experience, with a long commitment to centering women and people of color in front of, and behind, the camera. The series is known for introducing generations of viewers to groundbreaking works like *Tongues Untied* (1989), *Hearts of Darkness: A Filmmaker's Apocalypse* (1992), *Rabbit in the Room* (1999), *Of Civil Wrongs & Rights: The Fred Korematsu Story* (2001), *Made in L.A.* (2007), *American Promise* (2013), *Not Going Quietly* (2021), *While We Watched* (2022), *A House Made of Splinters* (2022) and the mini-series *And She Could be Next* (2020). Throughout its history POV has featured the work of award-winning, innovative filmmakers including Jonathan Demme, Laura Poitras, Nanfu Wang, Frederick Wiseman, Emiko Omori, Janus Metz Pedersen and Ava DuVernay. In 2018, POV Shorts launched as one of the first PBS series dedicated to bold and timely short-form documentaries. In 2024, *Indiewire* named seven POV films in its roundup of "The 50 Best Documentaries of the 21st Century": *Faya Dayi* (2021), *The Mole Agent* (2020), *Minding The Gap* (2018), *Cameraperson* (2016), *The Look of Silence* (2015), *The Act of Killing* (2013) and *After Tiller* (2013). All POV programs are available for streaming concurrent with broadcast on all station-branded PBS platforms, including PBS.org and the PBS App, available on iOS, Android, Roku streaming devices, Apple TV, Android TV, Amazon Fire TV, Samsung Smart TV, Chromecast and VIZIO. For more information about PBS Passport, visit the PBS Passport FAQ website.

POV goes "beyond the broadcast" to bring powerful nonfiction storytelling to viewers wherever they are. Free educational resources accompany every film and a community network of thousands of partners nationwide work with POV to spark dialogue around today's most pressing issues. POV continues to explore the future of documentary through innovative productions with partners such as *The New York Times* and The National Film Board of Canada and on platforms including Instagram.

POV films and projects have won 50 Emmy Awards, 28 George Foster Peabody Awards, 16 Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Awards, three Academy Awards® and the first-ever George Polk Documentary Film Award.

Photon Films: Sardé Hardie, Director, Sales & Acquisitions

Bio: Sardé Hardie is a Toronto based film executive, writer, producer and community organizer. In her current role as VP of Acquisitions and Sales at Photon Films, she is responsible for acquiring new content and securing sales on broadcast and digital platforms. Working on titles such as Sound of Metal, Rosie, Monster and the upcoming film Pillion. Prior to joining Photon, 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, 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 development, financing, production and distribution of feature length narrative and documentary films for the domestic marketplace.

Pink Parrot Media: Tania Pinto Da Cunha, Vice President & Partner

Bio: Tania started in the business in 1997 working for prestigious companies such as Pathé International, Hanway Films and Lola Films as Director of Sales and Acquisitions. Then she fell deeply in love with the world of animated children films and tv series while working for Dygra Films in 2005 as Managing Director and Executive Producer. She has since then acquired several credits as Executive Producer. Until recently, she was the Sales Associate at Sola Media, well known for its expertise in the international family entertainment business. At present she runs Pink Parrot Media with her partner since they launched it at the Berlinale in 2018.

Company Profile: PINK PARROT MEDIA is an international sales company set up in 2018 by Marie Claude Beauchamp and Tania Pinto Da Cunha. We specialize in animation and live-action family entertainment. The company is active in distribution, acquisitions, packaging and financing projects as well as co-production opportunities. The purpose of this company is to give producers a place where they feel comfortable and convinced that their projects are well considered, promoted with passion and always handled on a personal basis. We can say that we are a boutique in the family entertainment business.

Looking For: Our main focus is high quality CGI animation feature films with a strong

story telling element, adventure, emotions and of course fun, and aimed at the whole family. We are also very keen on good and high quality 2D animation feature length projects, as well as animated TV series. The live action for family we are interested in are big adventures, with fantasy and/or magic elements, and good humor.

Quiver Distribution: Billy Schwartz, Manager, Content Acquisition

Bio: Billy Schwartz is a Manager of Content Licensing and U.S. Sales at Quiver Distribution, known for *Bandit*, *The Wrath of Becky*, *Irena's Vow*, and most recently, *Cleaner*. He began his career in the Television Acquisitions division at Entertainment One (now Lionsgate Canada), following an internship at Mongrel Media during his time at Queen's University (BA Honours). At Quiver, Billy focuses on AVOD, SVOD, and TVOD monetization and partnerships, leveraging data-driven release planning to drive profitability across the company's expanding slate in an evolving streaming landscape. Outside of work, he's a passionate traveler and photographer. Billy is based in Toronto.

Company Profile: Since its inception in 2019, Quiver has rapidly emerged as a leader in the independent film and television industry, excelling in production, acquisition, and distribution across local and global platforms. With a dynamic and diverse content library, Quiver has cultivated strong, direct partnerships with leading digital, linear, cable, and satellite companies, ensuring its content resonates with audiences worldwide.

Quiver's executive team, led by Co-Presidents Jeff Sackman and Berry Meyerowitz, alongside CFO Sean Monson, brings over 80 years of combined entertainment industry expertise. This seasoned leadership has been instrumental not only in producing, acquiring, and distributing a broad slate of successful films and television series, but also in founding and growing multiple industry-leading distribution companies. This entrepreneurial foundation has fueled Quiver's innovative approach to navigating the evolving entertainment landscape.

Recent releases include *Irena's Vow*, starring Sophie Nélisse and Dougray Scott, directed by Louise Archambault. The film achieved significant success at the domestic box office, ranking as one of Canada's highest-grossing films of 2024.

Additionally, Quiver produced *Happiness for Beginners*, starring Ellie Kemper and Luke Grimes, directed by Vicky Wight. Released as a Netflix Original, the film became one of the platform's top-performing titles in the latter half of 2023, further showcasing Quiver's ability to deliver impactful content that resonates globally.

Raven Banner Entertainment: Michael Paszt, Managing Partner

Bio: As a co-founder and Managing Partner at Raven Banner and a producing partner at Slash's BerserkerGang and Hangar 18 Media, Michael Paszt has been instrumental in positioning Raven Banner as a leader in the global genre film space, representing such unique films as Andre Ovredal's *The Autopsy of Jane Doe*, Gaspar Noe's *Climax*, Issa Lopez's *Tigers Are Not Afraid* and the Oscar® nominated, *Embrace of the Serpent*. Michael has also Executive Produced over 30 feature films including Sundance Film Festival and SXSW Audience Award winner *Turbo Kid* and SXSW hit *Psycho Goreman*. He produced the Shudder Original *V/H/S/94*, which became the most-watched premiere in the streamer's history, and most recently, Steven Kostanski's *Deathstalker*, which debuted to acclaim at the Locarno Film Festival. He is also an award-winning documentary filmmaker; his feature *Nail in the Coffin: The Fall and Rise of Vampiro* premiered at Fantastic Fest in Austin, Texas.

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.

Rogers Sports & Media: Bryn Wiebe, Original Programming Manager

Bio: Bryn is the Original Programming Manager at Rogers Sports & Media overseeing scripted programming and part of the team's factual slate. Her career has spanned across multiple countries in tv, film and advertising. Her previous roles include at the New Zealand Film Commission, Libertine Pictures, and most recently at the Emmy-Award winning children's studio Sinking Ship Entertainment. Originally from Winnipeg, Manitoba, Bryn holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Film Studies from Toronto Metropolitan University.

Company Profile: Rogers Sports & Media is a diverse sports and content company that engages more than 30 million Canadians monthly. The company's dynamic portfolio of media assets includes 50 radio stations, more than 65 community TV channels, 31



conventional and specialty television channels, e-commerce, and more. Rogers Sports & Media delivers unique storytelling through its range of powerful brands: HGTV, Food Network, Bravo, Citytv, Discovery, ID, OMNI Television, FX, TSC, Breakfast Television, 98.1 CHFI, KiSS, CityNews and Sportsnet – Canada's #1 sports network. Rogers Sports & Media is a subsidiary of Rogers Communications Inc. (TSX, NYSE: RCI). Visit rogerssportsandmedia.com.

Looking for: The Rogers Sports & Media Original Programming team is currently commissioning scripted, unscripted, lifestyle and factual programming across eight channels: Citytv, OMNI, Food Network, HGTV, Discovery, ID and Bravo.

SuperChannel: 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+ Toronto Media Leadership Program and the Chair of the Foundation for WIFT+Toronto 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. <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).

Vortex Pictures: Matt Orenstein, VP of Acquisitions and Strategy

Bio: Matt Orenstein is Vice President of Acquisitions and Strategy at Vortex Media.



Notable Vortex Media titles include *Peace By Chocolate*, *The Luckiest Man In America*, *Eephus*, *Sometimes I Think About Dying*, *Nitram*, 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 *Measures For A Funeral*, *Sweet Angel Baby*, *The Hobby: Tales from the Tabletop*, *Dreams*, *Fantasy Life*, *Omaha*, *Psycho Therapy: The Shallow Tale of a Writer Who Decided to Write About a Serial Killer*, *William Shatner: You Can Call Me Bill*, *The Retirement Plan*, *The Feeling That The Time For Doing Something Has Passed*. Films in the Vortex catalogue include *Swiss Army Man*, *Green Room*, *First Reformed*, *The Gift*, *The Guest*, and *The Neon Demon*.

VVS: Claire Peace-McConnell, Head of Public Relations and 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.

WestEnd Films: Toby Hill, Head of Acquisitions

Bio: Toby Hill is Head of Acquisitions at WestEnd, acquiring titles for sales including MR MALCOLM'S LIST, FREUD'S LAST SESSION, and TATAMI. Prior to Westend, Toby ran Acquisitions for Icon Film Distribution UK, slate included DRIVE, PARANORMAL ACTIVITY, LA VIE EN ROSE, and PRECIOUS. At Len Blavatnik's film financing company AI Film, he built a slate including THE BUTLER, HACKSAW RIDGE and SILENCE, and was executive producer on I, TONYA and AMERICAN ANIMALS.



Company Profile: WestEnd Films is a dynamic international sales company for feature films and TV. It offers filmmakers finance, production and sales expertise as well as an extensive network of contacts across all sectors of the industry.

WestEnd's current line-up includes thriller ZEALOT starring Kodi Smit-McPhee and Djimon Hounsou, actioner TRACTION starring Noomi Rapace, Mary Harron's psychological thriller THE HIGHWAY THAT EATS PEOPLE and romantic comedy NIGHT AND DAY, based on the book by Virginia Woolf.