

nsi  **Story
Tellers**
national screen institute

History of the National Screen Institute — Canada (NSI)

NSI is the oldest national Canadian training school for writers, producers and directors working in film and television. It is one of four federally recognized and supported National Training Schools for professional development in film and television.

NSI is a school without walls. Instead of bringing students to a single facility, NSI takes its market-driven programs on the road, delivering them in major centres across the country. Every program is based around the philosophy that the best way to learn is by doing. According to the NSI 2005 graduate survey, 97% of respondents are working in the industry.

Training is provided through a number of programs: NSI Features First, NSI Totally Television, NSI Drama Prize, NSI Global Marketing, Telefilm – Canada Spark Plug and DiverseTV. NSI also launched the NSI Aboriginal Youth Pilot Project (AYPP) in January 2005, exposing Aboriginal youth to the film and television industry.

As a result of NSI's excellent reputation, Telefilm Canada and the Banff Television Festival have called on NSI to provide innovative and market-oriented training.

NSI Storytellers

NSI Storytellers was first launched in 2003-2004 as the Aboriginal Cultural Trade Initiative (ACTI) with an inaugural trade mission to Australia and New Zealand to advance projects with Aborigine and Maori partnerships. Participants received advanced professional and project development prior to the trade mission and were led by internationally respected Program Manager Judith McCann.

During this initial phase in 2004, participants attended the Women in Film and Television International (WIFTI) Summit, and met with Television New Zealand, TV3 Network Services, Maori Television Service, New Zealand Film Commission, Te Mangai Paho (Maori Language TV Production) and various government agencies and Maori producers. Participants also met with the Indigenous Branch of the Australian Film Commission, Australian Children's Television Foundation and various Aborigine producers, directors and writers.

In 2005, NSI brought the ACTI participants to the NSI FilmExchange Canadian Film Festival giving them the opportunity to attend master classes, panels and screenings, and international producers roundtables, in addition to strengthening business relationships begun in New Zealand and Australia.

Training Manager in Canada

As the NSI Storytellers training manager, Mickey Rogers brings her illustrious 25 years of experience as a highly respected producer, distributor and broadcaster who specializes in the international marketplace. She has collaborated with strategic partners around the globe. Some of her clients include Martha Stewart Omnimedia, Corus Entertainment and Wales Trade International, as well as numerous independent producers. Mickey has strong relationships with all major international broadcasters, financiers and distributors. She understands and appreciates the complexities of co-production. She holds both an EU and Canadian passport.

Prior to incorporating Mickey Rogers Media, she was one of the founding partners of Forefront Entertainment, an award winning vertically integrated production and distribution company. She established the distribution company and sold products into over 100 countries internationally. She also served as the executive producer and/or distributor of numerous award winning shows, including the International Emmy winning, **The Magician's House, The Adventures of Shirley Holmes, Madison, Edgemont, The 11th Hour**, and **These Arms of Mine**.

Contact

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Program Coordinator in New Zealand

Tainui te Waka- Waikato te Awa- Taupiri te Maunga- Hei Piko hei Taniwha - Hei Piko hei Taniwha- Pai Marire
In 2004 Mikki Tae Tapara returned to Aotearoa after living abroad for many years, working in the event management and hospitality industry. He is glad to be home and to be able to share home with international visitors. Mikki is particularly excited to be coordinating the 2005 National Screen Institute – Canada Storytellers visitation to Aotearoa on behalf of Nga Aho Whakaari Inc- Maori in Film, Video and Television.

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Spoken Song
Shirley Cheechoo
Producer/Director

Company Profile

Spoken Song is a feature film, MOW and documentary story-telling production company. Its president, Shirley Cheechoo has over 20 years experience and is the first First Nation woman to write, produce, direct and act in a feature length film from Canada. She has won numerous awards for her work. Shirley was selected to attend workshops at the Sundance Institute with creative advisor Robert Redford for her film, **Bearwalker**. She won best female director at the Reel World Film Festival in Toronto. Shirley is passionately involved in a feasibility study to develop a film institute in her community. This not for profit organization will train, develop, guide and support artists from the Aboriginal, African American and Latino communities.

Projects

Our Keepers **Documentary** **1x60**

Our Keepers focuses on the people who worked at the residential schools – the priests, nuns, the doctors and nurses, - all of the people who assisted in the acculturated environment of aboriginal children. Licensed in Canada and looking for pre-sales.

Little Big Spirits **Feature Film**

Susan, a nine year old girl attends an Indian residential school, suffering abuse by her teachers. Her only protection is a sphere of energy which she uses when she seeks safety, peace and happiness. She gets lost in the forest and wills up her protective shield, unwittingly trapping a group of Little People inside.

Strings **Feature Film**

Strings is a dark and tragic comedy based on true stories about the Winters' family's heartbreaking secret of murder, abuse and addictions. Tiffany Winters whose ties have been cut with her family, confronts the sins of the past when her Aunt Josephine shows up at her door.

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The Thing With Feathers

Carole Geddes
President

Company Profile

For over 20 years, Carole Geddes has been telling the stories Aboriginal people and of the Tlingit, her people who reside on the west coast of Canada. She is a writer, director and producer of award winning documentaries. Her programmes have been viewed nationally on the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Bravo, APTN and on educational networks across the country. Her most recent film **Two Winters: Tales from Above the Earth** garnered 10 national and international awards in 2005. She was a recipient of the Queen's Royal Jubilee Medal in 2003 for her contribution to the cultural community.

Projects

Anash and the Legacy of the Sun-rock

TV series for young people

6x30

Young warriors aim to bring peace back to the Tlingit people after the spirit of the sea causes strife. This adventure series promotes the value of peaceful relationships and urges audiences to protect the environment.

Bible and Script treatment available

Riel's Outback Ride

TV

1x60

Riel, an Aboriginal Canadian tried to find a new life in Australia, partly to escape events he can't cope with in Canada. By experiencing a life-threatening event, he learns that not only can you go home again, but in some cases you must.

Pulling Coyote's Tale

Animated documentary series

These documentaries explore the relationship Aboriginal people have with sexuality and reproduction. The series covers the times before contact, during and after, with the intent on the entertaining and emotive content. Noted native psychologist Dr Terry Tafoya will be our guide in their journey. A co-production is sought for this series. Given the rich opportunity to contrast colonial experiences, it will provide a unique opportunity to create compelling television for disparate audiences.

Contact

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Dark Thunder Productions

Melanie Jackson
Producer

Company Profile

Dark Thunder Productions celebrates the talents of two independent filmmakers, Dennis and Melanie Jackson. As a team, their producing efforts have established them as an award winning company. Their first documentary production seven years ago, **Journey Through Fear** won the Telefilm Canada award at Banff. **Christmas at Wapos Bay**, a stop motion animation for young people, premiered as an Official Selection of the 2002 Sundance Independent Film Festival. Due to that success, **Wapos Bay** is currently a series with the National Film Board. It airs on the Aboriginal People's Television Network and recently won an award at Imaginative Festival.

Projects in Development

Wapos Bay – The Series
TV series for young people
5x30 completed – 6x30 in development

This animated series follows the adventures of three children T- Bear 10, Talon, 9 and Raven 6, as they explore their remote community of Wapos Bay.

Guardians
Youth series
13x26

After a nuclear winter, The Guardians, advanced human like replicants have been pre-programmed to initiate human births and raise them in the New World. The Guardians have to connect to their indigenous roots to navigate the dangers of the alien shape shifters and perils in the New World.

Moccasin Mother
MOW
1x90

A young woman marries a man from a different aboriginal culture and finds that her world is turned upside down when his mother takes control of the young woman's education. Her mother-in-law uproots the young woman to her community and for the next three months immerses her in a new culture

Contact

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Eagle Vision

Lisa Meeches
President/Producer

Company Profile

Eagle Vision produces exceptional award winning Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal programming for broadcast, film and commercials. It is a joint venture with Mid Can Production services and has affiliate companies in Ireland, Wales, Vancouver and Los Angeles. Eagle Vision produces the hit preschool children's series, **Tipi Tales** which follows the adventures of four Aboriginal cousins who play in the forests and learn life lessons. It received the 2003 Parent's Choice Gold Award for its "high production standards, universal human values and its unique quality ". Lisa is the creator and host of **The Sharing Circle**, a documentary series highlighting the ancient teachings and relating them to our contemporary world. **Sharing Circle** is in its 14th season on Chum, Canada's third largest national broadcaster.

Projects

Sharing Circle

370x30 completed

20x30 in production

This documentary series is a celebration of life that embraces people from all races and cultures and honours the traditions of the elders. Looking for Maori producers who are interested in working together to produce some shows.

Tipi Tales

26x30 completed

13x30 in production

Tipi Tales is a pre-school puppet series featuring four Ojibway cousins, who during visits to their great-grandparents home, learn the tools of life from enchanting forest animals who embody the seven ancient aboriginal laws – love, respect, courage, honesty, wisdom, humility and truth.

Residential Schools

6x60 docudrama series

Throughout Canadian history, both church and government have made concerted efforts to assimilate First Nations children into Canadian society. The residential schools were supposed to offer aboriginal children a better life. However, the results were devastating. Stripped of their culture, starved and forced into slave labour, these children experienced sexual, physical and emotional abuse. We hear their stories in this series.

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Eclipse Media

Clarence Michon

Producer/Director/Writer

Company Profile

Clarence Michon is a seasoned Producer with a comprehensive background in the production and administrative aspects of television, film, radio and related industry marketing strategies. For more than a decade, Clarence has been an integral team member on a variety of media projects pertaining to the First Nations of Canada. Clarence's most recent series, **Le Voix de Mechif**, is currently being broadcast nationally in Canada on APTN. He is also producing and writing the 5 part Aboriginal/ English language series **The People and the Land** currently in production in Northwestern Ontario Canada. He has worked on high profile productions with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, the National Film Board and Time Warner Television in the US. As Acquisition Manager and Commissioning Editor, Clarence played an instrumental role in the establishment of Canada's newest national broadcaster, the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN).

Projects

Spirit of the Hunt-Whaling

Documentary

1x60 –possible series

Spirit of the Hunt – Whaling is a controversial pilot for a series exploring the rights and methods of whaling for Aboriginals and what the International Whaling Commission has deemed as acceptable for indigenous groups. Co-production potential

Kokelpelli and the Didjeridu

Documentary

1x60

This documentary traces the evolution of Aboriginal music in Canada and Australia. It will focus on the healing aspects of the music for both the listeners and performers. Looking for possible co-producers.

China – Made in Moose Factory

Documentary

This documentary explores the reproduction and limited editions of aboriginal products as a multi-billion dollar business. The doc takes the view that only Aboriginals can authenticate our art and creativity. Co-production potential.

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Mushkeg Media

Paul Rickard
President

Company Profile

Veteran producer Paul Rickard started Mushkeg Media four years ago. The company specializes in film and videos about the native experience. **Finding Our Talk: A Journey into Aboriginal Languages**, 26 part series was Mushkeg's first documentary series about disappearing indigenous languages. Paul's most recent venture is a feature documentary on **Aboriginal Architecture – Living Architecture** that he produced with the National Film Board for the APTN. As well, Paul wrote, directed and produced **The Winter Chill**, a dramatic short as an initial step in producing more drama projects in the future. To further that goal, Paul was the associate producer on CTV's MOW **One Dead Indian** and an executive producer of **From Cherry English**.

Projects

Aboriginal Architecture – Living Architecture **1x90 – potential for series**

This documentary explores the traditional structures Native People designed, engineered and built to suit their lives. It focuses on the way Aboriginal architecture continues to evolve in response to on going changes in the natural and social environment. Looking for co-production partners.

Sideways North **MOW**

Based on a true story of two Cree brothers, this MOW bridges the generation gap between the parents' traditional way of life and the brothers who learn to honour it to save the family. Only when the brothers come to understand hardship does the family's luck change.

Indi-gene-ous **Documentary**

1x60

This documentary examines the controversial issue of genetic research amongst indigenous peoples and the opposition from various groups defending their rights on a national and global scale. Possible co-production.

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