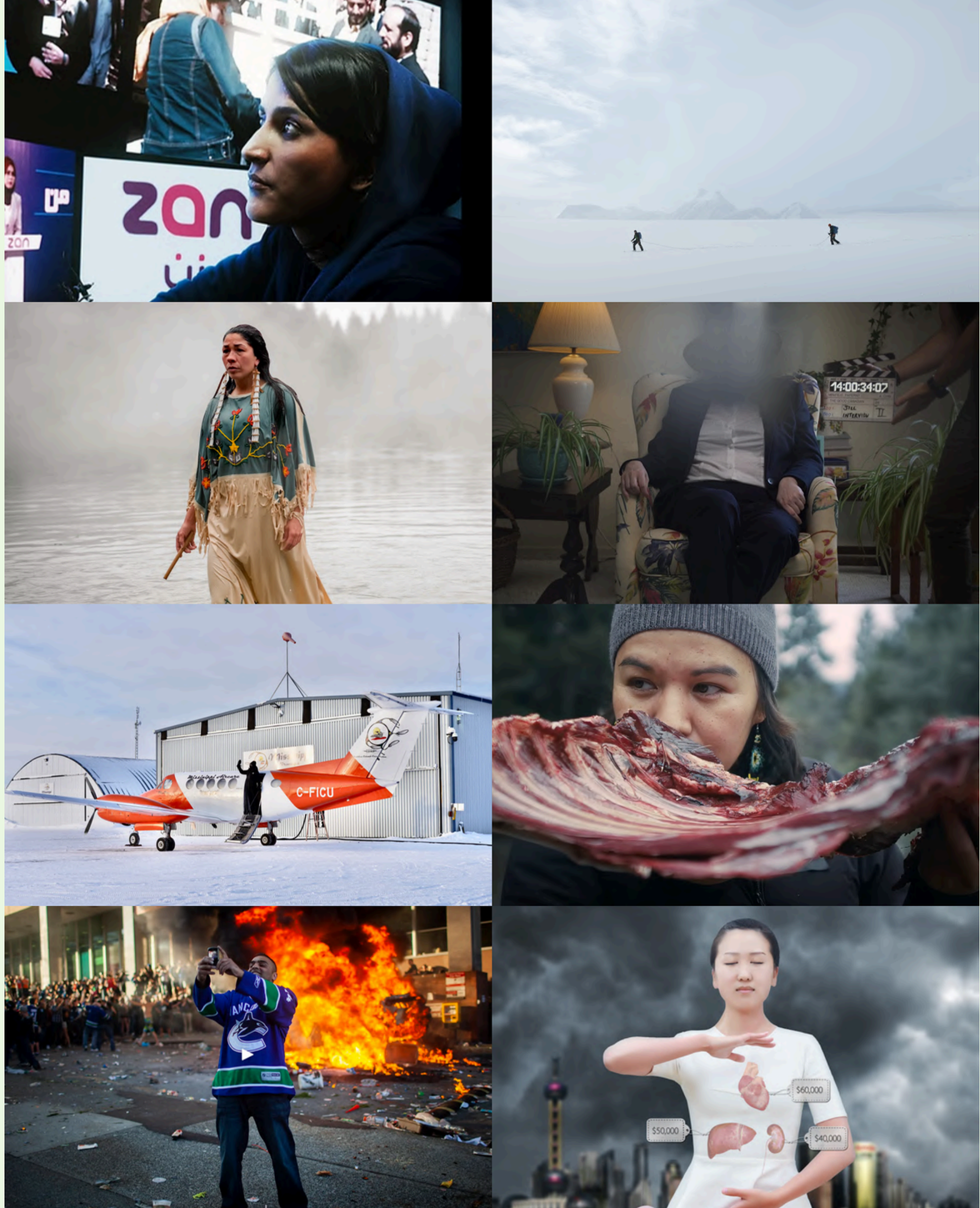
International Documentary
Filmfestival Amsterdam 2026

# Canadian Delegation: Organization & Producer Information




CMPA
Canadian Media Producers Association
BC Producers Branch

CREATIVE BC | BRITISH COLUMBIA

INDIGENOUS SCREEN OFFICE
BUREAU DE L'ÉCRAN AUTOCHTONE

# About Us

The Canadian Media Producers Association is the national advocacy organization for independent producers, representing hundreds of companies engaged in the development, production, and distribution of English-language content made for television, cinema, and digital media channels. For 75 years, the CMPA has worked to promote the continued success of the Canadian production sector and to ensure a bright future for the diverse content made by our members for both domestic and international audiences. The CMPA's diverse membership produces an incredible variety of projects, from acclaimed indie films to animated kids' shows—and everything in between. Have a favourite Canadian TV show? Chances are one of our members produced it. Those Canadian films getting all the hype on the festival circuit? Again, it's more than likely you're hearing about our members' work.
**https://cmpa.ca**

Creative BC is an independent non-profit society created and supported by the Province to sustain and help grow British Columbia's creative industries: motion picture, interactive and digital media, music and sound recording, and magazine and book publishing. The organization delivers a wide range of programs and services with a mandate to expand B.C.'s creative economy. These activities include: administration of the provincial government's motion picture tax credit programs; delivery of program funding and export marketing support for the sector; and provincial film commission services. Combined, these activities serve to attract inward investment and market B.C. as a partner and destination of choice for domestic and international content creation. The agency acts as an industry catalyst and ambassador to help B.C.'s creative sector reach its economic, social, environmental, and creative potential both at home and globally.
**https://creativebc.com/**

The Indigenous Screen Office (ISO) is an independent national advocacy and funding organization serving First Nations, Inuit and Métis creators of screen content in Canada. The ISO's mandate is to foster and support narrative sovereignty and cultural revitalization by increasing Indigenous storytelling on screens and promoting Indigenous values and participation across the sector.

ISO policies and activities are grounded in and informed by Indigenous knowledge(s), which means respecting Indigenous ways of knowing, seeing, doing, acting, and listening. We acknowledge, and strive to uphold the principles of respect, reciprocity, responsibility, and relevance in our working relationships.
**https://iso-bea.ca/**

### Culture Storm

Heather Haynes is a documentary programming and cultural strategist, most recently serving as Director of Programming at Hot Docs. With over twenty years of experience across documentary festivals, markets, labs, and development programs, she has supported socially engaged, independent storytelling and built long-standing, trust-based relationships with filmmakers and industry professionals internationally. Recognized for her curatorial vision, strategic insight, and calm navigation of complex international documentary ecosystems, she brings deep experience in program leadership, strategic planning, and the sustainable development of artist-support initiatives.

# Key Representatives



**Raila Gutman**
CMPA-BC



**Heather Haynes**
Culture Storm



**Mathew Parry**
Creative BC



**Melanie Hadley**
ISO

# Black Rhino Creative

Black Rhino Creative is a Vancouver-based independent production company creating character-driven documentaries and factual series for Canadian and international audiences. Founded by filmmakers Ryan Mah and Danny Berish, the company is drawn to stories about identity, cultural memory, overlooked histories, and people who challenge the worlds they inherit.

Black Rhino Creative's recent feature documentary, *Arthur Erickson: Beauty Between the Lines*, completed a 16-week Canadian theatrical run, opened the Architecture and Design Film Festivals in Toronto and Vancouver, and secured U.S. distribution through Gravitas Ventures. The company is currently producing *Seeking Saltwater City*, a three-part documentary series commissioned by Knowledge Network, and *Ski the Wong Way*, a feature documentary about Chinese Canadian freestyle-skiing pioneer Wayne Wong that is in development with CBC.

The company has also produced four seasons of AMI-tv's *Postcards From…*, featuring host Christa Couture as she explores communities across Canada through an accessible and personal travel lens. Black Rhino Creative has produced work for CBC, AMI-tv, Knowledge Network, TELUS Optik TV, Air Canada, and SBS Australia.

Black Rhino Creative is focused on developing ambitious, culturally specific stories with broad international appeal and building relationships with co-producers, broadcasters, distributors, funders, and sales partners.

**https://www.blackrhinocreative.com/**







Ryan Mah
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# Boldly

Boldly is a premier, award-winning Canadian commercial production company and creative studio operating out of Vancouver and Toronto. Helmed by partners Sebastian Galina, Shelby Manton, Geoff Manton, and Kristoff Duxbury, the studio is widely recognized for its progressive "values-based producing" model, which prioritizes a culture of care, community, and diversity behind the scenes.

Dual-operating across two highly successful divisions, the company produces high-impact global campaigns for major brands under Boldly (featuring client work for names like Arc'teryx and Mitsubishi) while developing original, boundary-pushing cinematic stories through Boldly Originals, its narrative and documentary arm.

This versatile approach has earned them consecutive rankings as one of the Top 5 production companies in Canada by LBB Online, alongside a decorated slate of films and commercial work that has screened at prestigious festivals globally, including TIFF and SXSW, and won awards ranging from the Clios to the Young Director Awards.

**https://boldly.ca/**







Geoff Manton
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Digital Warriors Productions

# Digital Warriors Productions

Brishkay Ahmed is an award-winning Afghan-Canadian filmmaker, writer, and producer whose work bridges documentary and fiction to amplify underrepresented voices and explore urgent global conversations around gender, identity, migration, and social justice. As founder of Vancouver-based Digital Warriors Productions, Ahmed develops bold, female-centred stories that challenge dominant narratives. Through her company, she brings a distinct Afghan-Canadian perspective and a global producing vision to stories that seek to shift cultural conversations.

Her work has received national and international recognition. Her award-winning feature documentary *In the Rumbling Belly of Motherland* received Outstanding Feature Film and Outstanding Feature Film Producer honours at Reelworld. Her CBC documentary *Fatima in Kabul* received a Canadian Screen Award nomination and a Banff Rockie Award nomination. Her National Film Board of Canada feature documentary *In the Room* won the Writers Guild of Canada Screenwriting Award.

Ahmed was selected as one of just ten Canadian creators for the Netflix–BANFF Diversity of Voices: Elevate program, recognizing mid-career production leaders from across Canada and identifying her as a producer to watch.

Ahmed is currently developing the feature documentary *How to Dismantle the Patriarchy*, alongside award-winning filmmaker Aeyliya Hussein, as an international co-production with Canadian, Ontario, and European partners. The film follows a global coalition of women activists working to challenge gender apartheid and transform international law, bringing together voices from across continents in a timely exploration of justice, solidarity, and systemic change.

**https://www.digitalwarriorsproductions.biz/**






Brishkay Ahmed
brishkayahmed@gmail.com

# Flying Cloud Productions

Leon Lee is a Peabody Award-winning filmmaker of grounded international stories about power, conscience, and moral choice, known for elevated geopolitical thrillers and documentaries about China.

Across documentary and narrative film, he has built a distinctive body of work around censorship, coercion, surveillance, diaspora tension, and the human cost of silence. His films include the Peabody Award-winning documentary *Human Harvest*, the documentary feature *Letter from Masanjia*, and the narrative feature *Unsilenced*.He is especially interested in projects with political urgency, emotional weight, and a strong sense of the real world.

Leon is the founder of Flying Cloud Productions and a recipient of the Top 25 Canadian Immigrant Award.

**https://flyingcloud.ca/**






Leon Lee
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# Grand Scheme

Grand Scheme is a film and television production company founded by producer Michael Tanko Grand to focus on producing unique and entertaining premium documentaries, with BC and Canada's most exciting and innovative filmmakers. Grand Scheme has completed 4 feature documentaries since 2020. *Saints and Warriors* (2025), a Crave Original, is the feature debut of Haida filmmaker Patrick Shannon, about Haida basketball history and culture that had its World Premiere at Big Sky in February 2025, received Top 5 Audience Favourite honours at Hot Docs and won the Rockie Award for Best Sports Docuementary. *Satan Wants You* (2023), directed by Sean Horlor and Steve J. Adams, tells the story of an illicit psychiatrist-patient romance that sparked the Satanic Panic of the 1980s and 90s, and had its World Premiere at SXSW 2023, won the Documentary Audience Award at Fantasia, won the Rockie Award for Excellence in Canadian Content and is a TUBI and CBC Docs Original. *The Grizzlie Truth* (2022), directed by Kathleen S. Jayme, is a wild journey about ill-fated NBA franchise the Vancouver Grizzlies and their most obsessive fan, which won the VIFF 2022 Audience Award and is a Crave Original and available on TUBI in the US. *I'm Just Here for the Riot* (2023) directed by Kathleen S. Jayme and Asia Youngman, is an ESPN 30 for 30 film about the 2011 Stanley Cup Riot that had its World Premiere at Hot Docs 2023, its US premiere at Big Sky, and launched on ESPN in the US and TSN in Canada in June 2024.

In 2026-27 Grand Scheme is set to release Crave Original, *Relax, Open Your Eyes*, a sci-fi documentary with insider access to the world of Cryonics; *Supernaturals*, a 10 part documentary series about Indigenous Fashion with APTN, and *Bot Love*, a CBC Passionate Eye documentary about how AI is being used to substitute for human connection and romance.

**https://www.grandscheme.ca/**







Michael Tanko Grand
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# Screen Siren Pictures Inc.

Founded in 1997 by president and producer Trish Dolman, Screen Siren Pictures is an independent production company known for high-quality, award-winning documentaries, feature films, and scripted television. Screen Siren's projects have screened at Cannes, Berlin, Sundance, TIFF, and top festivals globally. With a focus on international co-productions and partnerships, they work with marquee cast and directors to make media that changes the conversation.

Screen Siren's most recent released project is *Mafia: Most Wanted*, a three-part documentary series written, directed, and produced by Trish Dolman. The series was released on Crave in Canada in early 2025, and quickly rose to their 'Trending Now' page as one of the service's most successful original series launches. The series then came to Netflix in September 2025 where it rose to #2 on their Top 10 Most Watched list in the US and Canada following its release and has cumulatively notched over 40 million total views to date. It was nominated for four 2026 Canadian Screen Awards, including Best History Documentary Program or Series and Best Direction, Documentary Series.

Currently, Screen Siren is producing *Reclaim My Skin*, a three-part documentary series for Knowledge Network from filmmaker Marie Clements that reclaims Indigenous women's history and authority in North America; Marie's latest feature project *How We Stand*, a period drama that converges the stories of three Indigenous sisters in 1970s Los Angeles; and *The Exiled*, a period thriller feature film supported by Telefilm Canada from writer Graeme Manson (*Orphan Black*, *Snowpiercer*) and director Stephen Campanelli (*Drinkwater*, *Indian Horse*).

**https://screensiren.ca/**







Trish Dolman
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# Real World Media

Real World Media Inc. and its wholly owned affiliate Real World Films Inc. is an Indigenous documentary production company based in Vancouver, BC. Established by Métis filmmaker Denis Paquette and Chilean/Canadian filmmaker Carmen Henriquez, Real World develops and produces an international slate of character driven documentary content distributed across multiple screens.

Real World creates films, series, branded, and web content that inspire, empower, and entertain audiences across Canada and around the world. From our award-winning international TV docuseries *Native Planet* to our acclaimed theatrical documentary *Cry of the Andes*, Real World produces compelling stories about the core issues shaping our characters, their communities, the environment, and our planet.

Real World is Indigenous inspired and grounds its stories on social, environmental, and cultural themes. Recent credits include season two of the adventure docuseries *Northern Air Rescue*, and the TELUS originals docuseries *The Conversation*.

From our turnkey Vancouver production studio, Real World take a hands-on approach to crafting our stories. Our creative teams conceive and develop our properties, travel around the world to capture our content, then edit and online all our documentaries. This auteur approach to documentary production provides us intimate access to the people and communities whose stories we are privileged to share.

**https://realworldmedia.tv/**








Denis Paquette
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# Stories First Productions

Stories First Productions began back in 2007 in Vancouver BC, brought to life by Producer/Owner Leena Minifie, a Gitxaala Nation and British journalist, storyteller and media professional with 25 years of experience in film and storytelling and a decade of work in digital strategy. With very few producers from the nations on the West Coast of Canada, and while traditional storytellers are finding their place in an era of online entertainment, Stories First aims to help fill the silence with Indigenous voices and produce capitvating stories that engage and inform both Indigenous and settler audiences.

Minifie is the co-writer and co-producer of the investigative feature documentary, *The Good Canadian*, with David Paperny and Sarah Jane Flynn as EP. Stories First, along with Taiga Pictures will be embarking on the production of *Jonny Appleseed,* a 7-part television series as EP and Producer, with Joshua Whitehead as EP, Brad Fraser as co-showrunner, and Simon Faber, Taiga Pictures as EP and Producer. She will also be co-writing and co-producing *The Last Resort*, a 12-part sitcom directed and co-written by Brooke Swaney and with Haydn Wazelle as EP/Producer.

A founder of Ricochet Media's Indigenous Reporting Fund, Minifie has produced stories for organizations such as CBC Radio One news and APTN National News and is a BANFF Spark Accelerator for Women and Bell Reelworld Producer's Program fellow. Creating and amplifying the reach of untold stories through film and digital tools is the heartwork and the centre of Stories First.

**https://www.storiesfirst.ca/**








Leena Minifie
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