



Introductory remarks

delivered by

Wayne Clarkson,

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at the

Toronto Documentary Forum

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THANK YOU CHRIS...

GOOD MORNING EVERYONE – LADIES, GENTLEMEN –
BROADCASTERS AND DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKERS.

I AM DELIGHTED ON BEHALF OF TELEFILM CANADA AND ITS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO EXTEND CONGRATULATIONS TO
EVERYONE INVOLVED WITH THE LARGEST DOCUMENTARY
EVENT IN NORTH AMERICA... THE 2007 EDITION OF THE HOT
DOCS CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL.

AND WELCOME TO THE 7TH EDITION OF THE TORONTO
DOCUMENTARY FORUM.

WE ARE ALL AWARE OF THE COMMERCIAL AND CRITICAL
SUCCESS FEATURE-LENGTH DOCUMENTARIES HAVE
ENJOYED IN THIS COUNTRY AND AROUND THE WORLD OVER
THE PAST DECADE.

PEOPLE LINING UP TO SEE FILMS LIKE *SUPER SIZE ME* AND *THE INCONVENIENT TRUTH*.

AT HOME THIS YEAR *À FORCE DE RÊVES* WON THE JUTRA IN QUEBEC, *MANUFACTURED LANDSCAPES* TOOK HOME A GENIE, AND *SHARKWATER* IS PERFORMING WELL AT THE BOX OFFICE.

ALL ARE EVIDENT OF THE INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE DOCUMENTARY FILMS PLAY AS AGENTS OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CHANGE.

TODAY, MORE THAN EVER, WE MUST MAINTAIN OUR SUPPORT OF DOCUMENTARY PRODUCTION.

THE FIRST SPEECH I GAVE AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WAS IN OTTAWA AT THE CFTPA'S *PRIME TIME* CONVENTION.

IN THAT SPEECH I ASSERTED THE NEED FOR INCREASED FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THEATRICAL DOCUMENTARIES.

SHORTLY THEREAFTER ACCESS TO CANADA FEATURE FILM
FUND PERFORMANCE ENVELOPES WAS EXTENDED TO
THEATRICAL DOCUMENTARIES (*THE CORPORATION*), AS WAS
ACCESS TO THE MARKETING FUND.

IN JUNE OF 2005, TELEFILM ANNOUNCED THE CREATION OF
THE THEATRICAL DOCUMENTARY PILOT PROGRAM.

TELEFILM PARTNERED WITH CBC TELEVISION AND THE
ROGERS GROUP OF FUNDS – A FIRST-TIME COLLABORATION
FOR OUR THREE ORGANIZATIONS – TO CREATE AN INITIATIVE
THAT WOULD BE DEDICATED TO THE PRODUCTION AND
COMPLETION OF ENGLISH- AND FRENCH-LANGUAGE
FEATURE-LENGTH DOCUMENTARIES.

SEVEN ENGLISH- AND FRENCH-LANGUAGE DOCUMENTARIES RECEIVED DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION FINANCING, AND ANOTHER SIX DOCUMENTARIES FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY RECEIVED COMPLETION FUNDING.

TODAY I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE THEATRICAL DOCUMENTARY PILOT PROGRAM IS BACK WITH A RENEWED ONE-YEAR COMMITMENT OF MORE THAN \$2 MILLION.

CBC TELEVISION AND THE ROGERS GROUP OF FUNDS HAVE RENEWED THEIR FINANCIAL SUPPORT – AND I WANT TO THANK RICHARD STURSBURG AND ROBIN MIRSKY.

I'M ALSO PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA HAS GENEROUSLY ACCEPTED TO JOIN THIS PARTNERSHIP – AND WE'RE TRULY HONOURED TO HAVE THE NFB IN OUR RANKS. THANK YOU, CLAUDE JOLI-COEUR.

YOU COULDN'T FIND A BETTER PRIVATE-PUBLIC
PARTNERSHIP!

IT'S NOT EASY FINDING NEW MONEY FOR CULTURAL
INDUSTRIES THESE DAYS... IT NEVER IS I GUESS.

WHILE THE RENEWAL OF THIS PROGRAM IS A SIGNIFICANT
STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, IT IS NOT THE STABLE, LONG-
TERM SOLUTION THAT IS NEEDED.

HOWEVER I AM CONFIDENT YOU WILL TAKE THIS
CONSTRUCTIVE, INTERIM SOLUTION AND CAPITALIZE ON IT.

HOW?

BY PRODUCING AND PRESENTING TO CANADIAN AND
INTERNATIONAL AUDIENCES, QUALITY, ENGAGING,
PROVOCATIVE AND UNIQUE DOCUMENTARIES... A CANADIAN
TRADITION.

THANK YOU AND ENJOY THE FORUM AND THE FESTIVAL.