

1000



Great
and
glorious
years
of
Canadian

To celebrate 100 years of Canadian cinema, *Take One* has compiled a list of 100 actors, directors, producers, writers, exhibitors, animators, cinematographers and others who have made a difference in Canadian and International cinema. Making up such a list, of course, completely subjective (and a whole lot of fun). The only criteria we used was place of birth and citizenship; however, not exclusively. 1930s dancing star Ruby Keeler, who didn't make the list, was born in Halifax, but moved to New York with her parents at age three; Scotland's John Grierson, who did make the list, wasn't born in nor was he ever a citizen of Canada, but his influence has been profound and lasting.

We attempted to choose the most famous Canadians and important *cinéastes* and in so doing, we were bound to leave out some of the best. One hundred names is too restrictive when it comes to Canada's contribution to world cinema and a second 100 could be constructed with relative ease. Our trouble was not who to include, but who do we leave out? Saul Rubinek, Martin Short, Henry Czerny, Denis Héroux, Harold Greenberg and Peter Mettler were left off the list due to the lack of space, not for their relative merits as actors.

We did not want the list to be an academic exercise nor restrictive to any particular notion of indigenous Canadian cinema. Selection was based on the importance of the film, the filmmaker, box office success, and such shifting notions as popularity and fame, with the acknowledgement that Canadians have made a significant contribution to American cinema. Mary Pickford was the most famous and financially successful woman in silent cinema, and Jim Carrey has become one of the highest paid actors in the history of film. Ivan Reitman, James Cameron and Norman Jewison are three of Hollywood's most reliable producer-directors, and Canadian comedians such as Dan Aykroyd, Rick Moranis, Catherine O'Hara, Michael J. Fox, Leslie Nielsen, Michael Myers and, of course, (the late) John Candy have come to dominate North American comedy. Toronto-born Walter Huston was one of the finest actors of his generation and gave birth to the Huston clan, which includes son John and granddaughter Anjelica. Winnipeg songstress Deanna Durbin still receives world-wide fan mail 60 years after saving Universal from bankruptcy with *Three Smart Girls*, and Alberta's Fay Wray achieved immortality screaming atop the Empire State Building in *King Kong*.

In compiling the names and chronology, *Take One* acknowledges the excellent work done by Peter Morris in *Embattled Shadows: A History of Canadian Cinema, 1895-1939* and *The Film Companion*; Pierre Véronneau, Gary Evans and Rose-Aimée Todd in *The NFB Film Guide, 1939-1989*; John Turner in the *Canadian Feature Film Index, 1913-1985*; Mike Hoolboom in *Independent Eye*, Vol. 13 No. 1; and Ed Gould in *Entertaining Canadians*. Two hundred and fifty of the best films ever made in Canada are listed according to the year of release.

Finally, *Take One* would like to thank the Ontario Film Development Corporation for assisting with the printing of this issue, and Sylvia Frank and Eve Goldin of The Film Reference Library in Toronto for providing us with the majority of the stills, without which this celebration of 100 great and glorious years of Canadian cinema would not have been possible. ■

Wyndham Wise

Cinema

FROM THE TOP: *Goin' Down the Road*; *The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz*; Marie Dressler in *Min and Bill*; Claude Jutra's *Mon oncle Antoine*; Norma Shearer in *Marie Antoinette*; Jim Carrey in *Batman Forever*; Crawley's *The Man Who Skied Down Everest*; and Donald Sutherland in *Fellini's Casanova*.



TimeLines

DISTINCTLY CANADIAN 100

1894

Events:

■ April 14, Andrew and George Holland of Ottawa, "Agents for the Smith Premier Typewriter, Edison Phonograph and the Sorley Storage Battery," open the world's first Kinetoscope parlour in New York City, at 1155 Broadway.

1895

Events:

■ The Lumière brothers of France screen their first film to the public in the Salon Indien, Grand Café, Paris, December 28.

1896

Events:

■ First public screening of a film in Canada takes place June 28, in Montreal. One month later, the Holland brothers introduce Edison's Vitascope to the Canadian public in Ottawa's West End Park, July 21. Among the "scenes" shown is *The Kiss*, "starring" May Irwin, an actress from Whitby, Ontario. The first screening in Toronto takes place at Robinson's Musée on Yonge Street, August 31.

1897

Events:

■ The first films are shot in Canada. The subject of all three films (for Lumiere, Edison and Biograph) is Niagara Falls.
■ Films appear in vaudeville theatres as travelling showmen tour them from city to city.

1898

Events:

■ The Massey-Harris Company of Toronto commissions the Edison Company to produce films to promote its products—the first use of film for advertising purposes.
■ In December, John Schuberg presents films in Vancouver for the first time.

1899

Events:

■ Cameramen for Biograph film a contingent of Canadian volunteers boarding a steamship in Quebec City, bound for South Africa and the Boer War. The film is used to raise patriotic interest in the war.
■ Schuberg screens films in Winnipeg in a black tent.

1902

Events:

■ The Bioscope Company of Halifax, the first Canadian production company, produces a series of "scenes" for Canadian Pacific Railways to encourage British immigration to Canada.

1903

Events:

■ *Hiawatha, The Messiah of the Ojibways* is the first dramatic short (10 min.) made in Canada, directed by Joe Rosenthal.
■ Adolf Zukor, a Hungarian-born entrepreneur, opens his first penny arcades in New York and New Jersey. He would become the most influential figure in Canadian film exhibition and distribution.

1904

Events:

■ *The Great Fire of Toronto*, the first film to be shot in Toronto, is a record of the city's worst fire made by George Scott and Company.
■ Zukor opens the first of his palatial movie theatres, The Crystal Hall, in New York City.

1905

Events:

■ Billy Bitzer, who would later become D.W. Griffith's main cameraman, shoots *Moose Hunt* in New Brunswick and *Salmon Fishing* in Quebec for Biograph.

Ted Allan

Writer. Born Alan Herman, Montreal, 1916. Died, 1995. Canada's leading left-wing writer of books, screenplays, radio, television and live drama, Allan's life was defined by his obsession with Dr. Norman Bethune, his comrade-in-arms during the Spanish Civil War. Allan wrote the biography of Bethune, *The Scalpel, The Sword* in 1952, and battled for over 40 years to make a movie about the Canadian surgeon who became a hero of the Chinese revolution. After an arduous production, Phillip Borsos's *Bethune: The Making of a Hero*, starring Donald Sutherland and based on Allan's script, was released in 1990 to almost universal critical condemnation. In 1976, Allan's autobiographical screenplay for Jan Kadar's *Lies My Father Told Me* won a Golden Globe and was nominated for an Academy award.

Jule and Jay Allen

Exhibitors. Jule: Born, 1888, Bradford, Penn. Died, 1922; Jay: Born, 1890, Bradford, Penn. Died, 1942. With their father, the Allen brothers opened their first "Theatorium" in 1906 in Brantford, Ont., and formed one of Canada's first distribution companies, the Allen Amusement Corp., in 1908. They built their first luxury theatre in Calgary in

1912 and by 1918, owned the largest chain in Canada. In 1922, they went bankrupt after losing a fierce bidding war for first-run features and sold all of their 53 theatres to the American-owned Famous Players Canadian Corp. This would be the last time Canadians made a significant impact through ownership of a national exhibition chain until Garth Drabinsky built up Cineplex Odeon in the 1980s. The Allens continued to exhibit films and operated Ontario's largest independent circuit prior to WWII.

Paul Almond

Director, producer and writer. Born, Montreal, 1931. From the mid-1950s into the 1960s, the Oxford-educated Almond directed more than 100 CBC-TV dramas. When he turned to feature filmmaking, he attracted domestic and international attention with a trilogy of understated, highly interiorized explorations of mind and spirit, starring his then-wife Geneviève Bujold. In the title role of *Isabel* (68), she almost drowns in a flood of threatening memories. In *The Act of the Heart* (70), Bujold plays a troubled woman who falls in love with a priest (Donald Sutherland) living through his own spiritual crisis. In 1972's *Journey*, Almond cast John Vernon and Bujold again as his destabilized protagonists. Almond's attempt to establish an "art cinema" met with critical resistance and only modest commercial success, leading to his absence from filmmaking for nearly a decade.

Bethune: The Making of a Hero, based on a script by Ted Allan.



Dan Aykroyd

Actor and writer. Born, Ottawa, 1952. Ottawa and comedy: the connection is obvious and invoking it is a popular Canadian tradition. Beyond Parliament Hill, however, the capital connection to hilarity must have deeper roots. After all, Dan Aykroyd, the multi-talented comic, impressionist, actor, writer and producer is only the latest incarnation of Ottawa humour, his generation's version of another Ottawan, Rich Little. Aykroyd studied criminology at Carleton University before embarking on a career which has included stints at Second City, *Saturday Night Live*, and considerable success in Hollywood in such films as *The Blues Brothers*, *Ghostbusters* and *Driving Miss Daisy*, for which he earned an Oscar nomination.

Phillip Borsos

Director. Born, Hobart, Australia, 1953. Died, 1995. A gifted filmmaker, once pursued by Marlon Brando to direct a project, Borsos started out as a lab technician in Vancouver. Establishing himself in the late 1970s with formally assured short documentaries (*Nails* earned an Oscar nomination in 1979), Borsos emerged as a major talent in 1982 with his feature debut, *The Grey Fox*. This dramatic dissection of the Canadian West is an understated, finely nuanced essay on heroism and technology. Its quiet, fatalistic poetics would be extended in Borsos's four other features, most notably in the sprawling, awkward grandeur of *Bethune: The Making of a Hero*. Cancer claimed Borsos just weeks after his last film, *Far From Home: The Adventures of Yellow Dog*, had been released.

Michel Brault

Cinematographer and director. Born, Montreal, 1928. Canada's most gifted cinematographer, Brault has been a seminal figure in Quebec cinema since the 1950s. His early work with Gilles Groulx (*Les raquetteurs*), Claude Jutra (*à tout prendre, Mon oncle Antoine*) and Pierre Perrault (*Pour la suite du monde*) virtually defines the look of classical

Quebec cinema. His cinematography ranges from gritty *cinéma vérité* to the lyricism of *Kamouraska*; his directorial work from the terse documentary of *La lutte* to smoothly proficient TV dramas like *Les noces du papier*. His masterpiece is *Les ordres*, which won him the Best Director Award at Cannes in 1975. The film seamlessly fuses documentary and fiction styles while dramatizing the trauma of innocent people caught up in the October Crisis.

Donald Brittain

Director and writer. Born, Ottawa, 1928. Died, 1989. Educated at Queen's University and at one time a journalist at *The Ottawa Journal*, Canada's greatest documentary filmmaker began his cinematic career making sponsored films. Joining the NFB in 1954, Brittain proceeded to illuminate obscure areas of Canadian life and to fashion witty, often withering portraits of Canada's famous and infamous. As director, writer, and, most memorably, narrator of his own films, Brittain is arguably the most comprehensive chronicler of post-WWII Canada. His filmography contains some of the best documentaries and docudramas (a genre he virtually invented) ever made. *Volcano: An Inquiry into the Life and Death of Malcolm Lowry*, *Canada's Sweetheart: The Saga of Hal C. Banks* and others constitute an incisive and passionate victory over Canadian cultural amnesia.

Geneviève Bujold

Actor. Born, Montreal, 1942. Bujold, whose American career is arguably the most high-profile by a Canadian female actor since Deanna Durbin, began as a theatre usherette. Intense, sensual and intelligent, she made three prestigious "art" films with her then-husband, Paul Almond, in the early 1970s. She gained international recognition in Philippe de Broca's cult classic, *King of Hearts*,

and won an Academy award nomination for her performance in *Anne of the Thousand Days* opposite Richard Burton. Later, she joined Alan Rudolf's informal stock company and gave fine, cryptic performances in *Choose Me* and *The Moderns*. She is memorable as the love interest of Jeremy Irons's twins in David Cronenberg's *Dead Ringers*.

Raymond Burr



Actor. Born, New Westminster, B.C., 1917. Died, 1993. The heavy of more than 50 low-budget thrillers, Burr slimmed down for his starring role in the TV series *Perry Mason* (1957-66). As the courtroom attorney who never lost a case,

he was a huge hit, winning an Emmy twice. On film, he is remembered mainly as the murderer stalking Grace Kelly in Hitchcock's *Rear Window* and the lawyer in *A Place in the Sun*. He later found himself as a detective confined to a wheel-chair in the TV series *Ironside* (1967-74). Burr closed out his career reprising his role as Perry Mason in many Movies of the Week.

James Cameron

Director and writer. Born, Kapuskasing, Ontario, 1954. Perhaps it's that stifling Canadian realist documentary tradition; perhaps it's our peculiar affinity for developing new image-making technology; for Hollywood-based Canadian expatriate Cameron, perhaps it's both. Indeed, while rejecting outright one cultural tradition and running away with the other, Cameron is making decidedly un-Canadian fantasy films (*The Abyss*, *The Terminator*, *Aliens*,



Geneviève Bujold and Richard Burton in *Anne of the Thousand Days*.

**DISTINCTLY
CANADIAN
100**

TimeLines

DISTINCTLY CANADIAN 100

1906 Events:

- Léo Ernest Ouimet opens his first "Ouimetoscope" in Montreal and starts up Canada's first film exchange.
- The American-born Allen brothers, Jule and Jay, open their first storefront theatre in Brantford, Ontario.

1907 Events:

- Ouimet opens the largest (1,200 seat) luxury theatre in North America.

1908 Events:

- The Allens launch their first film exchange, the Allen Amusement Corp.
- Ouimet films the first Canadian newsreels, which he shows in his theatre.

1911 Events:

- Ontario, (followed shortly by Quebec and Manitoba) establishes a Board of Censors to regulate the content of motion pictures, the first in North America.
- The Allens open their first luxury theatre—the 800-seat Allen Theatre in Calgary.

1912 Events:

- Quebec-born Mack Sennett releases the first shorts by his newly formed Keystone Studios in Los Angeles, California.
- Adolf Zukor forms Famous Players in Famous Plays Film Company in New York.

1913 Events:

- The first Canadian feature, *Evangeline*, shot in Nova Scotia by the Bioscope Company, is based on the Henry Wadsworth Longfellow poem about the expulsion of the Acadians.
- Boards of Censors are established in British Columbia and Alberta.

1914 Events:

- With the outbreak of WWI, there is a swell of anti-Americanism as the United States does not enter the war until 1917. Provincial censor boards ban or attempt to curtail the "excessive" display of the Stars and Stripes in American films.

FILMS

Evangeline (E.P. Sullivan and William Cavanaugh)

1916 Events:

- Adolf Zukor joins forces with Jesse Lasky to form Famous Players-Lasky, with the rights to distribute Mary Pickford films through Paramount Pictures. With a massive loan from the Morgan bank, Zukor embarks on an ambitious plan to acquire motion picture theatres right across North America and dominate the industry.
- Minneapolis-born N.L. Nathanson buys his first theatre in Toronto, the Majestic on Adelaide Street, with the backing of wealthy partners. He builds a theatre chain that would soon rival the Allens'.

1917 Events:

- Ontario establishes the Ontario Motion Picture Bureau (OMPBB), the first public film board in North America, "to carry out educational work for farmers, school children, factory workers, and other classes."
- The first film studio opens in Trenton, Ontario.
- Canada's first film periodical, the *Canadian Moving Picture Digest*, appears.

Terminator 2: Judgment Day, *True Lies*) with the latest image-making pyrotechnics. Before alien life-forms sent his career skyrocketing, Cameron studied physics at California State, designed sets for Roger Corman, cutting his directorial teeth, so to speak, on such films as *Piranha II: Flying Killers*.

John Candy

Actor. Born, Toronto, 1950. Died, 1994. Given the funhouse gallery of characters he created, it's fitting Candy was born on Halloween. From *SCTV*'s Tommy Shanks and Johnny LaRue, to *Uncle Buck* and the twisted Louisiana hood in Oliver Stone's *JFK*, Candy's affable and malleable personality made him one of the most popular performers to emerge from the comedy scene in Toronto in the late 1970s. After studying journalism at Centennial College, Candy became a co-founder of the Canadian chapter of Chicago's Second City comedy troupe. He went on to star in the fabled *SCTV* series until finding fame on the big screen with a succession of hits in the 1980s, including *Splash* with Tom Hanks, *Planes, Trains and Automobiles* with Steve Martin, and *Only the Lonely* with Maureen O'Hara. Before his death at 43, John Candy played out a boyhood dream by becoming a part owner of the Toronto Argonauts football club.

Gilles Carle

Director and writer. Born, Maniwaki, Quebec, 1929. A key figure in Quebec cinema, Carle was a graphic artist and writer before shooting his first film in 1961. His innovative debut feature, *La vie heureuse du Léopold Z.* (65), tracked the adventures of a snowplow operator during a madcap Christmas eve. The quirkily paced, proto-feminist *La vraie nature de Bernadette* starring Micheline Lanctôt and *La mort d'un bûcheron* with Carole Laure led eventually to the more mainstream but graceful *Les Plouffe* and the epic love story *Maria Chapdelaine*, both classics of Quebec cinema. Named in 1995 to France's Legion d'Honneur, Carle continues his peripatetic career with theatrical and TV films. Effervescent, optimistic, he once said about Canadian moviemaking: "We're condemned to originality."

Jim Carrey

Actor. Born, Jackson's Point, Ontario, 1962. Years as a stand-up comic on the comedy club circuit landed Carrey in a very short-lived sitcom, *The Duck Factory*, and small parts in several films. However, it wasn't until his rubbery face, manic energy and general goofiness on TV's *In Living Color* got him the lead in the low-budget comedy, *Ace Ventura: Pet Detective*, that Carrey became an "overnight" sensation. With the success of *The Mask*, *Dumb and Dumber*, and *Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls*, Carrey has become one of the highest paid actors in Hollywood and the natural successor to Jerry Lewis's "stupid" style of physical comedy.

Gilles Carle

