

The Service Industry Organizations For Filmmakers of Colour and Aboriginal Filmmakers

In the past six years, several organizations have sprung up to assist people of colour and Aboriginal people in getting their films and videos to the screen. Here are the details on five of these groups.

► Black Film and Video Network

24 Ryerson Avenue, Suite #307

Toronto, ON, M5T 2P3

Tel: (416) 504-1442; Fax: (416) 504-1478

staff: Camille Turner, part-time Coordinator.

membership: 70

purpose: To encourage and promote the development, production and distribution of the work of Black filmmakers in Canada.

activities: Workshops (drama directing with Haile Gerima, documentary directing with St. Claire Bourne, screenwriting with Charles Fuller); festivals (Jennifer Hodge de Silva and Paul Robeson retrospectives, Telling Our Own Stories, Africa International:

Celebrating New Black Cinema); film producing seminars; industry internships; bursaries; members' directory; job placement and crew referral service; resource library

founded: 1988 by Christene Browne, Veronica Ciandre, Karen King, Lana Lovell, Roger McTair, Claire Prieto, Glace Lawrence, David Zapparoli, Cameron Bailey.

board members: Dirk McLean (President), Colina Phillips, Nonqaba Msimang, Milton Bryan, Jackie Pelle, Conrad Coates, Cameron Bailey.

► Full Screen

183 Bathurst Street, #301

Toronto, ON, M5T 2R7

Tel: (416) 504-1710; Fax: (416) 360-0781

staff: Ryan Takatsu, part-time Administrative Coordinator.

membership: 51

purpose: To provide a bias-free environment where artists of colour and First Nations artists can professionally develop and exhibit their work. To bring down access barriers for artists of colour. To bring together artists from diverse backgrounds. To provide a forum for critical input and constructive artist exchange.

activities: Shooting the System conference

(November 89), skills development workshops, Media Colours festival, with seminars and workshops (October 94).

founded: 1989 by Marjorie Beaucage, Richard Fung, Ali Kazimi, Maria Teresa Larrain, Glace Lawrence, Brenda Joy Lem, Lana Lovell, Jorge Lozano, Michelle Mohabeer, Premika Ratnam, Cameron Bailey.

board members: Eva Allen, Saeed Khan, Mduduzi D.T. Mokgakala, Atul Sohla.

In Visible Colours Film and Video Society

Suite 115, 119 West Pender Street

Vancouver, BC, V6B 1S5

Tel: 604-682-1116

staff: none (staff positions pending; operations conducted by volunteer board)

membership: 75

purpose: To establish a local and international network of film and videomakers, producers and exhibitors of work by women of colour, First Nations and Third World women; and to promote the development, distribution and exhibition of cinema which reflects the aspirations of women of colour.

activities: In Visible Colours, an international film and video festival and symposium (1989); co-sponsorship of screenings and workshops for Black History Month and International Women's Week; workshop series; production of youth video.

founded: 1989 (incorporated May/91) by Lorraine Chan and Zainub Verjee.

board members: Margaret Akulia, Ana Chang, Eileen Gladue, Shafraz Jetha, Baljit Sangra, Roslyn Simon, Tracey Williams.

Aboriginal Film and Video Art Alliance

328 Main Street, Saskatoon, SK, S7N 0B7

Tel: (306) 934-2647.

staff: Marjorie Beaucage, "Runner."

membership: 150 nationally; more members at local levels (each region also organizes separately).

purpose: To promote and encourage the art of film and video production within the principles, values and traditions of Aboriginal self-government, through gatherings, workshops, seminars, conferences, festivals and other educational services related to film, video and multi-media. To foster communication

and cooperation among Aboriginal artists, traditional storytellers and Aboriginal peoples. To foster and encourage communications and dialogue with non-aboriginal peoples through co-ventures and co-productions in the arts.

activities: Public service announcements on self-government (1993-94); research and development of NATIVE NET (94-96); full-time training director at Media Arts department, Banff Centre for the Arts, and development of other departments; technical training for theatre group in Morley.

founded: April, 1991 by Marjorie Beaucage, Maria Campbell, Wil Campbell, Denis Lacroix, Catherine Martin, Marrie Mumford, Alanis Obomsawin, Cleo Reece, Loretta Todd, Bernelda Wheeler.

advisors: Maria Campbell, Wil Campbell, Alanis Obomsawin, Bernelda Wheeler.

steering committee: Loretta Todd (Acting Chair), Marjorie Beaucage, Murray Jurak, Richard Agecoutay, Bernard Assiniwi, Denis Lacroix, Catherine Martin, Cleo Reece.

Southern Currents/Corrientes del Sur

296 Brunswick Avenue, Suite 318

Toronto, ON, M5S 2M7

Tel: (416) 927-8213; Fax: (416) 927-1208

staff: Jorge Lozano, part-time Coordinator.

membership: 12 in Toronto. Currently forming a national organization.

purpose: To develop, produce and exhibit film and video by artists of Mexican, Central American, South American and Caribbean origin living in Canada through conferences, festivals and workshops.

activities: First National Encounter of Latin American Film and Video Makers living in Canada Conference (November 93); video workshop for Latin lesbian community; International Festival of Latin American Independent Film and Video (Toronto, 95).

founded: June, 1992 by Maria Teresa Larrain, Jorge Lozano, Ramiro Puerta.

board members: Ricardo Acosta, Irma Iranzo, Jorge Manzano, Beatrice Pizano, Ramiro Puerta.

national organization committee: Jeaneth Lara (National Coordinator); Ramiro Puerta, Harold Sotomayor (Central Canada); Carlos Ferrand, Leopoldo Gutierrez (East); Claudia Morgado, Marco Menendez (West).