

Digital Open Source project to bring award-winning filmmakers to Fogo Island

Fogo Island Arts Corporation and the National Film Board of Canada partner in contemporary version of the legendary “Fogo Process”.

Fogo Island, NL, June 1, 2010 – Three award-winning filmmakers are coming to Fogo Island as part of a new, multi-faceted digital project announced today by the Fogo Island Arts Corporation and the National Film Board of Canada (NFB), in partnership with the Shorefast Foundation.

The three-year project will feature a visiting filmmaker program, the creation of an open source digital archive of Fogo Island's oral history and culture, a residency for emerging filmmakers and the production of a collection of short films that reflect the Fogo Process in the 21st century digital age.

The visiting NFB filmmakers are award winning innovative creators Andrea Dorfman, Bruce Alcock and Yassine Ouhilal. They will work closely with the Fogo Island Arts Corporation to develop an Open Source Digital Archive – encouraging the active participation of local people in gathering material for the archive, as well as collecting stories and creating short films to be produced and distributed by the NFB.

“We see fantastic possibilities in this project,” said Elisabet Gunnarsdóttir, director of the Fogo Island Arts Corporation. “It gives opportunities to capture life on the islands where people live in harmony with their environment and their traditions and human interactions are still highly valued.”

Preserving heritage and promoting new digital projects

The Digital Open Source Project is not a traditional, text-based archive. The Fogo Island Arts Corporation and the NFB envision a dynamic source of visual material documenting the islands' culture and people, a community owned and managed representation of itself. Equally exciting is the production of a collection of short films by some of Canada's most innovative filmmakers that re-create, using modern digital technology, the legendary Fogo Process

“The NFB's greatest works have most often come when artists have seized the potential of new technology to tell stories anchored in a time, a place, and a community,” said Tom Perlmutter, Government Film Commissioner and Chairperson of the National Film Board of Canada. “The original Fogo Films were one of the great examples of that. Now the Fogo spirit is coming alive again as we bring a new generation of artists to work with the community harnessing the remarkable power of new digital technologies to tell the stories of today.”

The Visiting Filmmakers

The filmmakers selected for this partnership bring to the project a passion for visual storytelling, and extensive technical and critical accomplishments.

Andrea Dorfman, who has been called “one of Canada’s most promising, versatile and truly independent” filmmakers, has directed documentaries, features and animation. Her first feature film, *Parsley Days*, played the Toronto International Film Festival and other festivals to great acclaim, and has gone on to achieve cult status. Her most recent film, *Flawed*, an intensely personal and wisely universal animated short about the modern obsession with being flawless. Produced by the NFB, it recently premiered at the Hot Docs International Film Festival.

Bruce Alcock was born in Newfoundland, and has worked in Barcelona, Toronto, Chicago and now Vancouver. His company, Global Mechanic, produces films, commercials, games, installations and TV shows for clients including PBS, the Cartoon Network and MuchMusic. The most recent film is *Vive la Rose* – a co-production with the NFB that tells a tragic love story and is based on a traditional Newfoundland song by folk hero and musician Emile Benoit.

Yassine Ouhilal is an active lifestyle photographer who specializes in pioneering and documenting new and uncharted surf destinations. For the past ten years he has photographed dozens of locations around the globe, including several in Arctic regions. His film *Arctic Surf*, which screened at the 2009 Atlantic Film Festival, documents a month-long surfing expedition far above the Arctic Circle. He recently premiered a time-lapse short film based on his experiences in Iceland.

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About the Fogo Island Arts Corporation

The Fogo Island Arts Corporation is a contemporary art venue on Fogo Island and Change Islands. The Arts Corporation seeks to attract the world's finest contemporary artists and thinkers, and to give the islands international visibility through the arts. The Corporation aims to bring leading contemporary artists – in fields including visual arts, new media, design, music, dance, writing and film – to residencies on the islands, and to bring together artists and local community members for workshops, art projects, seminars, exhibitions and other events. All Arts Corporation activities focus on locally rooted and site-specific themes inspired by Fogo Island's and Change Islands' unique place and people - and reach out to the international contemporary art scene at the same time. The Fogo Island Arts Corporation is supported by the Shorefast Foundation. For more information on the Arts Corporation, including backgrounders, please visit www.artscorpfogoisland.ca.

The Shorefast Foundation is a registered Canadian charity using entrepreneurial methods to help secure prosperity for the region of Fogo Island and Change Islands. www.shorefast.org,

About the National Film Board of Canada

Canada's public film producer and distributor, the National Film Board of Canada creates social-issue documentaries, auteur animation, alternative drama and digital content that provide the world with a unique Canadian perspective. The NFB is breaking new ground in form and content through community filmmaking projects, cross-platform media, programs for emerging filmmakers, stereoscopic animation – and more. It works in collaboration with creative filmmakers, digital media creators and co-producers in every region of Canada, with Aboriginal and culturally diverse communities, as well as partners around the world. Since the NFB's founding in 1939, it has created over 13,000 productions and won over 5,000 awards, including 12 [Oscars](#) and more than 90 Genies. The NFB's new on-line screening room and i-phone application feature over 1,400 productions. Visit NFB.ca today and start watching.