

**IN THEATRES – OCTOBER 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

# PLANET YOGA

*A Film by Carlos Ferrand*  
*Produced by Nathalie Barton & Ian Quenneville*

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*Quebec, Canada, 2011, video HD, color, Dolby Stereo 5.1, 87 min.*

<b>Directed by</b>	Carlos Ferrand
<b>Original idea</b>	Stéphane Boisjoly
<b>Research</b>	Stéphane Boisjoly, Carlos Ferrand
<b>Written by</b>	Carlos Ferrand
<b>With the collaboration of</b>	Iolande Cadrin-Rossignol Pierre Billon, Lucie Lachapelle and Ian Oliveri
<b>Assitant Director</b>	Ian Oliveri
<b>Director of Photography</b>	Katerine Giguère
<b>Additional images</b>	Carlos Ferrand
<b>Sound</b>	Catherine Van Der Donckt, Olivier Léger
<b>Editing</b>	Dominique Sicotte
<b>Animations</b>	John Tate
<b>Original Musique</b>	Robert Marcel Lepage
<b>Sound design end Editing</b>	Catherine Van Der Donckt, Benoît Dame
<b>Mix</b>	Jean-Pierre Bissonnette
<b>On-line Editing</b>	Christophe Flambard
<b>Production</b>	Nathalie Barton Ian Quenneville

*Produced by*  
**InformAction**

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# PLANET YOGA

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## 1 line Synopsis

**Planet Yoga**, A journey from East to West through the universe of Yoga.

## Short Synopsis

**Planet Yoga** takes us on a fascinating journey through the universe of Yoga. We meet passionate people who shed light on this Eastern discipline, now adapted and integrated into our western culture, revealing the desire for meaning that characterizes the new millennium.

## Synopsis

How did words like nirvana, karma, guru, reincarnation, meditation, and “Om” come to be part of everyday language in the West? The answer lies in yoga, the fastest-growing spiritual practice around the world.

**Planet Yoga** tells the fascinating story of the encounter between the ancient eastern discipline of yoga and a western population. This convergence has given birth to the most popular mind-body movement on the planet. Featuring a colorful cast of characters, a compelling musical score, and unexpected locations on three continents, the film explores yoga’s social significance and its powerful attraction for a Western world in search of meaning. Behind the joyful energy of Planet Yoga is the collective admission that materialism has hit a wall, and it is now time to look inwards for meaning and peace.

# PLANET YOGA

*“The practice of yoga spreads like a good virus. Is it an answer to the rat race? A reaction to the overload created by what we call progress? 50 million North Americans can’t be wrong. But what is it exactly that makes yoga so attractive?”*

## Perspective on Yoga

Of all the disciplines involving mind and body practiced during the 70s, it was Yoga that experienced the widest geographic dispersal that continues to exist today. In a survey published in 2004 by the *National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine*, Yoga had become the fifth most common alternative therapy used in France. With its followers spending more than \$3 billion annually on courses and products, Yoga has found itself at the centre of a lucrative business. Europe has seen less of a following than North America; however the numbers have still been impressive.

In the last fifty years, yoga has moved from a “counter-culture” curiosity to a *mainstream* phenomenon, becoming a part of millions of lives in the West to the point that it is today more dynamic in the occident than in India. In the past two years, the number of people participating in yoga reached 10% of the population in North America. It is a number that has caught the attention of sociologists, yoga instructors and marketing experts... Yoga is now “professionalized”; to be a yoga instructor is a “real” career, with its own initial and continued training and philosophy.

From the Beatles to Alanis Morissette to Madonna, a major source of influence, which has complemented yoga well, has come from the arts and music. The current popularity and commercialisation of yoga comes from this cultural appropriation. Today, yoga continues to be reinterpreted through a wide range of European and North American locations and social environments.

In the end, what is yoga? Is it a discipline? A philosophie? A wisdom? Is it a response to an ever-increasing need? All of the above are valid in the eyes of our different characters. However, among all of them we find a common goal: a search for peace and harmony during troubled times. Through various encounters, from Montreal to San Francisco, Canada’s Far North to Vancouver, over to France and down into India, the film offers an unusual prism of our society and reveals the ways in which oriental culture has enmeshed with Western culture.

# PLANET YOGA

## Jeffrey Armstrong (Kavindra Rishi), Vancouver, Canada



Called "Sveta" (white Hindu) by his Indian friends, he translates the Bhagavad Gita, making accessible the complexities of spiritual culture in the new millennium.

Jeffrey Armstrong has been passionate about yoga for 40 years. Tall, thin with blonde hair, he has the spirit of a poet but comes from a world of business.

Jeffrey has an amazing ability to interpret and communicate the concepts of yoga. He represents a new aspect of corporate communication that is primarily concerned with sustainable development. He considers himself "an astronaut of inner space" and believes that an instinctual need for balance is what has led to the popularity of yoga.

Jeffrey is representative of a North American yogi. Part guru, part poet, a CEO with endless energy and ambition, Jeffrey is sincerely passionate about yoga. He explains that more and more business people are looking for conditions that go beyond salary, a lifestyle of harmony and significance. From his base in Vancouver, he travels to California and India, giving yoga seminars to business people who are looking for a "paradigm shift" in their lives.

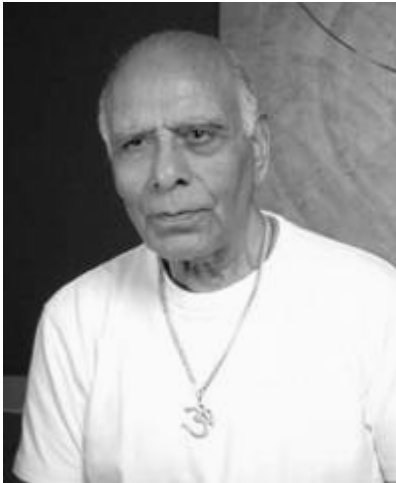
It's amazing to realize that Jeffrey's main clients are Hindu. To see a white man returning to the message of Hindu wisdom enshrined in the Vedas says a lot about the world today.

# PLANET YOGA

## Dr. Bali, Montreal, Canada

*“Swami Devananda was not the only yogi to come from the tropics to the land of winter. This is Dr. Bali: he arrived a bit later. He was married in Montreal by Swami Vishnu Devananda himself. He landed here without the slightest culture shock.”*

Dr. Bali. One of the most sought after yoga teachers in the Montreal area; at 87 years old he portrays a shining example to the benefits of yoga.



Founder and Director of Yoga Bliss, Dr. Madan Bali was born in India and has dedicated his life to the research, study and practice of yoga and yoga therapy. He has a doctorate in complimentary medicine and is a Vedanta scholar. He has been teaching yoga in Montreal since 1969.

Dr. Bali combines ancient techniques and philosophy with modern day intensity for a unique yoga experience. He introduced yoga to major hospitals, community centers, corporations, as an accredited course in colleges, and over 30 schools on the island of Montreal. Dr. Bali gives private consultations, regular classes and teaches training programs. He also leads workshops and seminars across Canada, U.S.A, Bahamas and India.

Source:

[http://yogabliss.ca/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=5&Itemid=26](http://yogabliss.ca/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=5&Itemid=26)

# PLANET YOGA

## **Sri Venu (Stéphane Boisjoly), Vancouver, Canada**

**Sri Venu (Stéphane Boisjoly)** a disciple of Swami Vishnu Devananda, singer and yoga instructor for over 40 years, he is a true yogi.



At 16 years old, Stéphane discovered yoga. Meditation then became his tool of choice in changing the world.

In 1971, he decided to travel to the Swami Sivananda Ashram in Rishikesh of the Himalayas. A family friend told him that there was an Indian yogi living in Val Morin, north of Montreal that he should meet before going to India. Although sceptical he decided to go to the ashram in Val Morin to meet the yogi in question.

*Imagine my surprise to discover on arrival that it was a Sivananda Ashram for Yoga and the Vedanta and that its founder was Swami Vishnu Devananda, the first disciple of the great Indian master. At Val Morin, I became one of the first formally trained, francophone yoga teachers in the West.*

In 1976, while yoga continued to occupy a prominent place in his life, he began a professional career in radio and television. It hasn't been long since he quit his career to found and direct the Sivananda Yoga Centre in Vancouver. For many years, Stéphane has practiced, taught and studied yoga in all forms. An urban monk who is very active in his community, Stéphane Boisjoly does yoga and meditates everyday of his life. His discipline is an enlightened and non-sectarian religion that incorporates the occidental as well as the East Indian.

Stéphane has a beautiful voice that can be heard wherever he goes.

# PLANET YOGA

## Kerry Lawson, Halifax, Canada

**Kerry Lawson** is a yoga nomad. With her yoga mat under her arm, she travels between Nova Scotia, Nunavut and India.



Enthusiastic and sincere, Kerry is a beautiful woman in her early fifties. She comes from an area that, only thirty years ago, was extremely conservative, white and unaccommodating to other cultures. Today, Halifax has a prominent Buddhist temple, alternative medicine is practiced alongside traditional, and for the first time yoga has officially entered into the curriculum of primary schools. Kerry Lawson has played a key role in this change of perspective. She makes a living teaching yoga and constantly travels between Canada and India.

Kerry was introduced to yoga at a young age by her mother who, now 71 years old, continues to practice. She's dedicated her life to yoga and shares her knowledge with children, pregnant women and seniors.

Kerry teaches yoga to Inuit children, helping them overcome serious learning obstacles. In just one hundred years, Inuit culture has changed drastically, this according to Kerry, has created a terrible imbalance within families and communities: violence, suicide and drugs. Kerry has developed an innovative social program for Nunavut schools called Building Resiliency for Youth through Yoga. Her program has expanded throughout the Great North, it is already available in the Northwest Territories and is soon to be introduced in the Yukon. Kerry herself is located in Iqaluit in the Arctic, where she gives courses to children at the local community centre. Kerry and her friends practice yoga wherever they go, be it an isolated and tranquil atmosphere of retreat, far from telephones and computers or among tribal cultures, elephants and snakes...



# PLANET YOGA

## Paul McQuillan, Toronto, Canada

**Paul McQuillan** lives yoga the way only a North American could: casually, with a sense of humour, and no delusions.



Paul is a yoga instructor in Toronto, but also an actor, musician and singer in musical theatre. He works regularly in musicals such as *Hair Spray*, *Beauty and the Beast* and *The Buddy Holly Story*. Irony and humour make him a refreshing character.

*I hate yoga. I also teach it and take it. The other day I listened to a yoga student go on and on about how her life had been changed by yoga. She now has more courage, drinks less, and has become more charitable and less selfish. I was thrilled for her, but I was also a little bored. I hear these life-changing testimonials all the time and they are beginning to form the legs of a walking cliché, even though yoga essentially saved my life. I had a chronic back problem and yoga got rid of it. (...)*

In his courses, Paul tries to be tough while gentle all at once. Not everyone enjoys the element of humor in he brings, but as Paul says: *“That’s their problem. Working hard should not exclude having fun.”*

# PLANET YOGA

## **Richelle Donigan, Oakland, California, USA**

*“The yoga market has a lot to offer: yoga-circus, yoga for children, naked yoga, yoGod for christians and yoga for dogs.... But Richelle Donigan is far from the flavour of the month: her yoga reaches out to everyone.”*

Her neighbourhood is her playground. Her community is her strength.



Richelle, a young black lesbian, is a yoga instructor in the most violent city in the United States. She is kind, committed and solid – and covered in tattoos. With her friend Keeta, she established a yoga studio. They’ve found their calling through introducing yoga to those left behind in society. Richelle and Keeta remind us that, even the yoga movement at times can succumb to racial differences and differences of social class.

*Anyone who gets into yoga is a little fucked up. To make a long story short, yoga got me back on my feet. I now teach ‘Butch Yoga’ to a bunch of misfits, lesbians, transsexuals and homeless people in Oakland, a city full of ghettos and people outside of the system. They love it. It’s my life.*

In the studio, with a simple look that has avoided any attempt at « design », we meet a colorful variety of students, in full swing. Elderly African American men, a mother covered in piercings and tattoos, an ex-convict trying to control his aggression, a young gay man who is trying to combat his hyper-sensitivity, as well as various homeless people, transsexuals and others. At times during the classes, tensions run high, however we sense in everyone a desire to overcome their differences in order to excel.

# PLANET YOGA

## Ysé Tardan-Masquelier, Paris, France

Ysé Tardan Masquelier is a historian of religions who specializes in Hinduism, and a true fan of yoga.



All at once a researcher, teacher and director of the first French yoga school, as well as a professor of Eastern Spirituality, from the dawn of Indian civilisation to the Western world of today, Ysé knows the history and benefits of her art. Both erudite and funny, she is also one of the most enlightened yogis of our time. She vividly tells the big story behind yoga: how it evolved from its metaphysical origins to a modern practice, which places emphasis on the body as a way to cultivating the inner life.

We also meet her husband, Patrick Tomatis, who trains future yoga instructors. Parisian to the core, these two know their art inside and out.

# PLANET YOGA

## **Swami Amritarupananda (Susan) et Swami Atmaswarupananda (Bill), Rishikesh, India**

Robes the color of saffron, heads shaved, humble living quarters at the heart of the ashram, but still a computer connected to the web... Bill and Susan's story is not what you would call "conventional". Father and daughter originally from Vancouver adopted a monastic life in the Sivananda Ashram in Rishikesh.



Back in Vancouver, Bill was a businessman. Drawn to the spiritual life, he waited for his kids to grow up before he became a monk. It's been 40 years since Bill came to the Sivananda Ashram in Rishikesh to become a monk and dedicate his life to yoga. 27 years ago, his daughter Susan visited him for a planned seven weeks and hasn't left since. Bill and Susan are emblematic of many westerners who come to India in search of meaning that eludes them in the heart of modernity and never turn back.

Despite her robe and shaved head, Susan hasn't completely abandoned her cultural origins. With the help of her father, who is still a proficient businessman, she created *Clean Himalaya*, a small company dedicated to cleaning the river Ganges. The holy river, held sacred by all of India, is overcome with filth. With a grant from the World Bank, Susan and a small group of employees have gradually gained the confidence of entrepreneurs in Rishikesh who are starting to fund their own efforts to preserve the banks of the sacred river.

# PLANET YOGA

## **A pioneer in North America: Swami Vishnu Devananda (1927 – 1993)**

If there is someone behind the incredible expansion of yoga in the West, it would be Swami Vishnu Devananda.



He quickly understood the need to break the Indian academic format of master to disciple in training yoga instructors. His huge success is a testimony to the value of his intuition.

In 1945, as a young soldier, he came across a publication about yoga written by Swami Sivananda of Rishikesh, whom he was only vaguely aware of. After twelve years of arduous training that completely transformed his body and spirit, his mentor entrusted in him the mission to spread the teachings of yoga in the West. “People are waiting”, he was told. In 1959, Devananda founded the first yoga school in the West, just outside of Montreal. It was in this way, the Swami Vishnu became the driving force behind the development of Yoga in North America.

Another important aspect of his life was his dedicated and creative approach to peace activism. The “flying swami”, bought a plane, had it colorfully painted by the artist Peter Max and would fly around dropping flowers and flyers with messages of peace over areas of conflict such as Cuba, Belfast with Peter Sellers, the Suez Canal, Jerusalem, Lahore and Bangladesh. His activities surrounding *hippy* ideals created a favorable climate for the reception of yoga in the West. He was the first *guru* to introduce the Beatles to yoga, during the filming of *Help!* in the Bahamas. The influence of the sitar in their music was considerable. The Swami Vishnu also met with Lennon and Yoko at their famous “bed-in” in Montreal, before the cameras of the world.

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## Director's Statement

The drive for consumption leaves us incomplete and we Westerners, as Lacan would say, live with a sense of longing that we attempt to address by adopting disciplines such as yoga.

What is fascinating about yoga is that it is indicative of modern society. On one hand it draws us inward by placing great emphases on the individual – the *me, myself and I* – while at the same time calling us out into the world, showing us the problems that exist and encouraging us to seek a solution. This tension is present in the film, the pace of which is that of a simple meditation: breathe in, that which is best for the individual, breath out, that which is best for life on this planet.

I must also admit that I am not attracted to monastic life or worship of the Ashram. My interest leans towards the exploration of believe rather than discussion surrounding alleged plots designed to lock people into a system of thought or “sects”. The 60s shaped me and so I am interested in trance, travel, encountering the Other, and admittedly, the exotic.

Yoga itself means “union or joining”, which occurs when the East and the West converge and is always exciting. The Beatles, whose influence of modern design composed of concepts emerging from India and the West, show proof of this. Our culture and our knowledge are the result of an amalgamation in constant evolution. The Hindus appreciate the energy of Westerners and certainly, their ability to achieve their goals. Capitalism’s undeniable ability to absorb all that can serve it’s purpose, even that which apposes it, gives us occasion to explore with humour and imagination the contradictions and energy that are a result of the missing links that exist between the East and the West.

This voyage to the heart of yoga is a story told with a smile, a reflection of the joyful spirit that we find in India. It’s an ambitious endeavour. Indeed, it is much easier to address in a serious tone the things we consider to be severe, rather than in a light and joyful manner. The subject however, requires this approach. No ceremonies and no paternal speech. Traveling into the unknown is a voyage of discovery. The film moves us towards a profound examination of our existence. In the end, the viewer finds himself in a yoga position seemingly simple, but difficult to solve: What is the purpose of life? What is its meaning?

Carlos Ferrand

# PLANET YOGA

## Carlos Ferrand – Director’s Biography



Born in Lima Peru, Carlos Ferrand Zavala has been established in Montreal for 30 years. Educated by the Brussels National Institute of Cinematography in Belgium, Carlos Ferrand has worked as a screenwriter, director, and director of photography. True to his Latin-American roots, he values non-specialisation and has a greater interest in documentary over fiction.

The more prominent titles within his filmography include: *Cimarrones* (1982), a fiction about black slaves who, upon their escape, land on the Peruvian coast and establish a free village; *Cuervo*, (1989) a feature film that tells the story of a Cuban woman who hires a Latin American detective to find her long-lost twin sister; *Visionaries* (1999), a moving film where in speaking to his daughter, he shares his experience of finding a

new sense of purpose in life; and *Kwekànamad – Le Vent Tourne* (1999), a film that tells of the spiritual journey of Annie Smith-St-Georges, an Algonquin struck with the suicide of her son.

In early 2000, Carlos Ferrand was the director and cinematographer for the film, *He speaks with Wolves*, a sensitive glimpse into the wonderful world of Michel and Louise Pageau, two endearing characters who dedicate their lives to caring for and releasing injured wildlife. In 2002, he directed and filmed the feature length documentary, *Casa Loma, Journal de Bord*, a reflection of the frailty inherent to creation, with the actress Pol Pelletier (special mention by FCMM 2002). In 2005, he directed a colourful documentary based on the costume designer Dominique Lemieux called *The Magic Touch*, produced by InformAction Films and selected for official competition by FIFA in Montreal, by the International de Namur Francophone Film Festival and was also nominated for six Gemini Awards.

*Americano* (2007), his last documentary feature, a “road movie” where he visits friends and takes the pulse of the Americas, was presented in 25 festivals and received numerous awards and nominations.

He is currently working on a feature film: *Voir, le Testament d’Aguiles Chaska*.

# PLANET YOGA

## Katerine Giguère – Director of Photography



Katerine Giguère has worked in the film industry for more than fifteen years. She began her career as an assistant camerawoman on feature-length dramatic films then went on to become a partner in the documentary production company Rapide-Blanc where she produced, directed and shot her first documentary *Seeds of Hope (L'île aux fleurs)*. For the last ten years Katerine has concentrated on cinematography, collaborating on several award winning films

with noted directors such as: Karina Goma, Francine Pelletier, Anaïs Barbeau-Lavalette, Hugo Latulippe, Bernard Hébert and Sylvie Van Brabant.

Presently, she collaborates on projects that send her all over the world. After three visits to Sudan with director Alexandra S. Lévesque, we will soon have the chance to see, on big screen, *The Waiting Room*. She is also collaborating with director Annika Gustafson on the audacious film entitled *\$h\*T!* (shit) shot primarily in Kenya and Sweden. As well, with director Karen Cho and under the production of the NFB, she is working on a pan-Canadian film exploring the major issues of feminism.

Katerine is in love with photography and fiction films as much as documentary, and never ceases to be inspired by this world of images.



# PLANET YOGA

## Dominique Sicotte - Editor



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Dominique Sicotte has been a film editor for over 25 years and she works primarily on documentaries dealing with social issues, science and culture. Notably, *Des lumières dans la grande noirceur*, *Partition pour voix de femmes* (Sophie Bissonnette); *Il y a longtemps que je t'aime* (Anne Claire Poirier); *Claude Jutra portrait sur film*, *Le petit Jean-Pierre le grand Perreault* (Paule Baillargeon); *Le rêve de voler*, *Je t'aime gros gros gros* (Helen Doyle); *Le blues de l'Orient* (Florence Strauss); *Visionnaires, la griffe magique*, *Américano* (Carlos Ferrand); *Les couleurs du sang*, *Le magicien de Kaboul*, *Il était deux fois un jardin* (Philippe Baylaucq); *Silence, on vaccine* (Lina Moreco), *Visionnaires Planétaires* (Sylvie Van Brabant) and *Socalled, le film* (Garry

*Planet Yoga*, is her sixth collaboration with Carlos Ferrand.

She spent her teenage years in Morocco and has traveled to Europe, Indonesia and India.

## Robert Marcel Lepage - Composer



Active in the Quebec music scene for the last 25 years, Robert Marcel Lepage has given us eleven solo albums, hundreds of soundtracks, *Le Robert illustré de la clarinette* an instructional manual and an illustrated collection of reflections: *Le Piano de neige*.

Documentary has often called upon his talents: *Le magicien de Kaboul*, by Philippe Baylaucq, *Roger Toupin, épicier variété*, by Benoit Pilon, *Le Côté sombre de la Dame Blanche*, by Patricio Henriquez, *Le Déshonneur des Casques bleus*, by Raymonde Provencher. He has also contributed much of his work to fiction, television (*Urgence*, *Réseaux*, *Contact*) as well as cinema (*Ce qu'il faut pour vivre* by Benoit Pilon, *La Donation*, *Contre toute espérance* and *La Neuvaïne* by Bernard Emond; *Trois Temps après la mort d'Anna*, *Dans les villes et Mariages*, by Catherine Martin; *Full Blast*, *Yellowknife*, by Rodrigue Jean. He also composed the original music for the animated film *La Plante humaine*, by Pierre Hébert, which was nominated at the Genies Gala.

The work of this versatile musician has been awarded four times by the Gala Gemini Awards and the Richard Gregory Foundation SPACQ (2006).

# PLANET YOGA

## John Tate – Animations



Trained illustrator and designer, John got into the computer animation field in 1986. Since then, he has worked extensively with animators and programmers and cultivated a brilliant career as a freelance art director, industrial designer, illustrator, photographer, writer and graphic designer. John's versatility has made him one of the most sought-after artists, by broadcasters and directors alike, when it comes to designing and generating TV and film animation and special effects.

Having started freelancing at the age of 19 he is always working on many diverse projects. His connection to design and effects in film goes back to 1986 when he worked on cutting edge 3D animation films and IMAX projects with Daniel Langlois and TAARNA studios in Montreal. His experience covers Film / IMAX 3D / television / advertising and more. Many of his projects have won awards.

He has also directed shorts and some tv/web spots as well as developing his own films and productions - the most recent a short filmed in Tokyo is now in postproduction.

# PLANET YOGA

## Nathalie Barton and Ian Quenneville – Producers



Co-founder and president of InformAction, Nathalie Barton has specialised in documentary production since 1971 and is celebrating this year the company's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. From 1994 to 2002, Nathalie Barton was head of the APFTQ's documentary section and a member of the association's board of directors. She also serves on the board of directors of both Vues d'Afrique and Women in Film, Television and New Media (WIFTNM). For two years she has been president of the Documentary Network, bringing together the most important players in support of the genre. She has always been a strong supporter for the work of auteur documentary and quality television.



Since his completion of the INIS production program, Ian Quenneville has worked on many documentaries, series as well as full features. He has worked on over 40 documentaries with *InformAction Films* and has won several awards and nominations. He is a shareholder and co-founder with Alexandre Gravel's multi-platform studio, Studio Toast. He also co-produced the feature film *The Fight*. Ian Quenneville is actively involved in the APFTQ through various negotiating committees and represents the documentary section of the board.

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## Production Company

### **40 years of quality and commitment**

InformAction is one of Canada's leading documentary production companies, specializing in point of view and creative documentaries directed by some of the best filmmakers in Canada. Founded in Montreal in 1971, InformAction produces single documentaries and mini-series on social issues, international affairs, art, world cultures and human rights for Canadian prime-time television (Radio-Canada, CBC, Télé-Québec, Canal D, TV5, Artv, Bravo, Knowledge, History and others) and for theatrical release. Many have won awards and all are distributed internationally. InformAction has been involved in several successful international coproductions with Europe, in particular with La compagnie des taxibrousse in France, with broadcasters Arte France and France 5.

Currently, InformAction is producing its first feature documentary film **Planet Yoga** directed by Carlos Ferrand, and is expected in theatres during the fall of 2011. Shooting its second feature film, scheduled for completion this fall is Helen Doyle's, **Rapporteurs d'images**. In 2008 InformAction, with the experience of Ian Quenneville through producing **Le ring** (produced in partnership with the INIS), undertook development in fictional feature films, the first of which saw the development of Renée Beaulieu's **Le garagiste**.

Among recent titles, feature documentaries released theatrically in 2009-10 include **Men for Sale** by Rodrigue Jean (*Festival of New Cinema 2009*) and **Roger Pelerin, là où l'on s'arrête en passant** by Patrick (Abitibi-Témiscamingue International Film Festival, FIFA 2010) and in Biographic Documentary **Gratien Gélinas : un géant aux pieds d'argile** by Pascal Gélinas (*Gémeaux award nominee, Banff 2010, best documentary screenplay*), **Chef Thémis, cuisinier sans frontières** by Philippe Lavalette (*Télé-Québec Viewer's Choice Award, RVCQ 2010*) **Breaking the Silence: Burma's Resistance** (RIDM 2009, VIFF 2010), **Born To Be Here** (*Gémeaux diversity Award 2010*) and **Shock Waves** (*CIDA Award for Best Canadian Documentary on International Development – Hot Docs 2008, Film Most Likely to Change the World Award – Detroit Docs 2007*), all three by Pierre Mignault and Hélène Magny, **Small Wonders** (RIDM 2009, Hot Docs 2010) and **Unlikely Treasures** by Tally Abecassis, **Battle of Wills** by Anne Henderson (FIFA 2009), **Seeking Refuge** by Karen Cho (*Best Direction in a Documentary Program nominee at the Gemini Awards 2009*), **A Dream for Kabul** by Philippe Baylaucq (*ReelAward for Outstanding Canadian Doc 2009*) and **Afghan Chronicles** by Dominic Morissette, both coproduced with the National Film Board of Canada.

InformAction also supports emerging directors (**Sans réserve** by Patrick Pellegrino, *Best Mid-length Documentary Award 2008* by Québec Critics Association; **La Vie après la shop** and **The Genocide in Me**, both nominated for *Best Social Documentary* at the Gémeaux Awards 2006).

Producers Ian Quenneville and Ian Oliveri joined the company 10 years ago and teamed up with senior producer and co-founder of the company, Nathalie Barton. Nathalie was for many years documentary representative on the board of the Association des producteurs de films et de télévision du Québec, and is now a board member of Femmes du cinéma, de la télévision et des nouveaux médias and Chair of the Documentary Network (l'Observatoire du documentaire).

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