



THE FRUIT MACHINE

A DOCUMENTARY FILM BY SARAH FODEY

81 MINUTES, CANADA, 2018

"THERE'S NO EXCUSE FOR YOU NOT TO FIND A WAY TO IT, AND IT'S DEFINITELY ESSENTIAL VIEWING FOR ALL CANADIANS."

- PETER KNEGT, CBC ARTS

CONTACT

HAN NGUYEN, PRODUCER

han@sandbayentertainment.com

647-347-9559

NOMINEE, BEST DOCUMENTARY
CANADIAN SCREEN AWARDS
2019

NOMINEE, AWARD FOR HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTING
CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF JOURNALISTS
2019

NOMINEE, BEST DOCUMENTARY
WRITERS GUILD OF CANADA
2019



The Fruit Machine



LOGLINE

1-LINER

SURVIVORS OF THE DECADES-LONG HOMOSEXUAL WITCH-HUNT RECOUNT THEIR PERSONAL STORIES OF DEDICATION AND BETRAYAL AT THE HANDS OF THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT.

60-80 WORD DESCRIPTION

OVER THE COURSE OF FOUR DECADES, THOUSANDS OF MEN AND WOMEN HAD THEIR PRIVACY INVADIED AND THEIR CAREERS RUINED. THEY WERE INTERROGATED, THREATENED, AND MANIPULATED. MANY SUFFERED PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS; SOME TOOK THEIR OWN LIVES. IT WAS ONE OF THE LARGEST BULLYING CAMPAIGNS IN CANADA'S HISTORY. *THE FRUIT MACHINE* EXAMINES THE HOMOSEXUAL WITCH-HUNT OF PUBLIC SERVANTS AND MILITARY PERSONNEL IN CANADA FROM THE 1950S THROUGH EARLY 1990S.

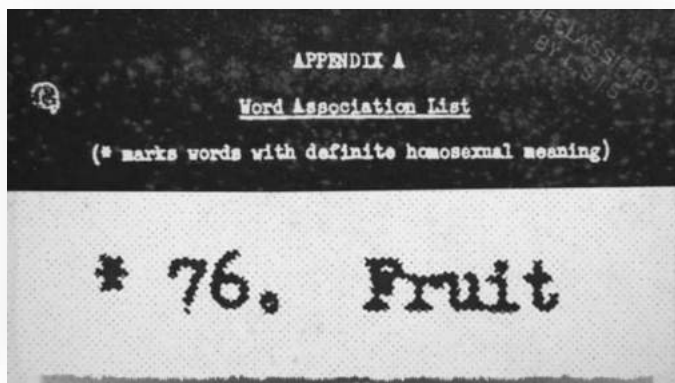


SHORT SYNOPSIS

SOME SOFTENED BY AGE AND SADNESS, OTHERS LOUD AND ANGRY, THE SURVIVORS OF CANADA'S LGBT PURGE ARE NOW UNITED, AND DETERMINED. THEY ARE SEEKING JUSTICE FOR DECADES OF DISCRIMINATION AND ABUSE AT THE HANDS OF THEIR OWN COUNTRY.

AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR, CANADA - AND MUCH OF THE WESTERN WORLD - BECAME PREOCCUPIED WITH NATIONAL SECURITY. AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF COLD WAR PARANOIA, CANADA BEGAN INVESTIGATING FEDERAL EMPLOYEES WHO MIGHT BE SUSCEPTIBLE TO BLACKMAIL BY SOVIET SPIES. HOMOSEXUALITY, THEN CONSIDERED A "CHARACTER WEAKNESS", WAS GROUNDS FOR SURVEILLANCE AND INTERROGATION BY THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE (RCMP), UNDER THE DIRECTIVE OF THE NEWLY-ESTABLISHED SECURITY PANEL. THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE SHARED THE RCMP'S CONSERVATIVE MINDSET AND PERVERSIVE BIGOTRY; IT WAS INEVITABLE THAT THE PURGE WOULD INCLUDE BOTH THE PUBLIC SERVICE AND THE CANADIAN MILITARY.

OVER THE NEXT FOUR DECADES, THOUSANDS OF MEN AND WOMEN WERE PURGED FROM THEIR CAREERS. THIS IS THEIR FILM. A FILM ABOUT ONE OF THE LONGEST AND MOST HARMFUL CAMPAIGNS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THE LGBT COMMUNITY; A STORY ROOTED IN COURAGE, CONVICTION, AND A COLLECTIVE JOURNEY TOWARDS JUSTICE.



TRAILER



NEW THEORY CLAIMS

LONG SYNOPSIS

LGBT MEMBERS OF THE CANADIAN ARMED FORCES, THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE, AND THE FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE WERE SYSTEMICALLY DISCRIMINATED AGAINST FOR OVER FOUR DECADES – BY THEIR OWN EMPLOYER, THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT.

THIS SHAMEFUL CAMPAIGN, NOW KNOWN AS THE LGBT PURGE, BEGAN IN THE 1950S AND LASTED UNTIL 1992.

IN THE 1950S, HOMOSEXUALITY WAS A CRIME IN CANADA. HOMOSEXUALS WERE THOUGHT TO SUFFER FROM A “CHARACTER WEAKNESS” THAT MADE THEM SUSCEPTIBLE TO BLACKMAIL BY RUSSIAN SPIES. THIS CAUSED A WIDESPREAD MORAL PANIC AND A CONFLATION BETWEEN HOMOSEXUALS AND COMMUNIST SYMPATHIZERS. THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT TOOK ACTION AGAINST THIS PERCEIVED THREAT, AND THE LGBT PURGE CAMPAIGN BEGAN UNDER THE COVER OF NATIONAL SECURITY MEASURES. SIMILAR CAMPAIGNS AGAINST LGBT PUBLIC SERVANTS WERE ACTIVE IN OTHER COUNTRIES AT THE TIME, NAMELY ENGLAND AND THE UNITED STATES – WHERE THE CAMPAIGN WAS KNOWN AS THE LAVENDER SCARE.

THE CAMPAIGN ALSO INVOLVED THE DEVELOPMENT OF A HOMOSEXUALITY DETECTION DEVICE COMMONLY KNOWN AS ‘THE FRUIT MACHINE’. THE WORD “FRUIT” WAS A DEROGATORY WORD FOR GAY MEN AT THE TIME. THE DEVICE WAS DEVELOPED BY DR. FRANK ROBERT WAKE AND HOUSED AT HIS LAB AT CARLETON UNIVERSITY IN OTTAWA. SUBJECTS WERE MADE TO VIEW LEWD OR SUGGESTIVE IMAGES OF MEN AND WOMEN AND THEN THE DEVICE WOULD MEASURE THE DIAMETER OF THEIR PUPILS IN RESPONSE TO THE IMAGES. IF PUPILS ENLARGED AT THE SIGHT OF A SAME-SEX IMAGE, HOMOSEXUALITY WAS THOUGHT TO BE PRESENT. THE FRUIT MACHINE TEST ALSO INVOLVED A PERSPIRATION TEST, PULSE RESPONSE, AND WORD ASSOCIATION TESTS. SUBJECTS WERE TOLD IT WAS A TEST TO RATE STRESS. THE TEST WAS USED TO NOT ONLY IDENTIFY HOMOSEXUALS SO THEY COULD BE FIRED FROM THEIR CAREERS, BUT AS A SCREENING TEST TO ENSURE HOMOSEXUALS DIDN’T GAIN EMPLOYMENT IN THE FIRST PLACE.



THE FRUIT MACHINE FILM FOCUSES ON THE FIRST-PERSON SURVIVORS OF THE LGBT PURGE. SURVIVORS FROM BOTH THE MILITARY AND THE CIVIL SERVICE SHARE THEIR PERSONAL STORIES OF DISCRIMINATION. THESE SURVIVORS WERE TARGETED IN A VARIETY OF DECADES OF THE PURGE, AND WERE EMPLOYED IN A VARIETY OF POSITIONS AND DEPARTMENTS ACROSS CANADA.

SUPPORTING THESE SURVIVOR STORIES ARE KEY VOICES OF CORROBORATION. THESE VOICES REPRESENT VARYING PERSPECTIVES FROM A JOURNALIST WHO WAS EMBEDDED WITH THE RCMP DURING THE PURGE, TO WELL-KNOWN AND RESPECTED LGBT ACTIVISTS, WRITERS, SCHOLARS, COMMUNITY LEADERS, AND THE LEAD LAWYER WHO REPRESENTED CLASS MEMBERS ON THE LGBT PURGE CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT.

THE FILM WAS DEVELOPED AND PRODUCED CONCURRENT TO THE SURVIVORS SEARCH FOR JUSTICE AND CAPTURES KEY EVENTS INCLUDING THE HISTORIC NATIONAL APOLOGY BY PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU TO THE SURVIVORS OF THE PURGE IN 2017.

DIRECTOR Q & A

WHERE DID THE IDEA FOR THIS FILM COME FROM?

THE IDEA FOR THIS FILM CAME ALMOST 20 YEARS AGO WHEN I SAT IN THE WELL-APPOINTED OTTAWA HOME OF GEORGE HARTSGROVE. I HAD COME TO GEORGE BY WAY OF AN OTTAWA CITIZEN ARTICLE ABOUT HIS VISION TO BUILD THE FIRST GAY AND LESBIAN RETIREMENT HOME IN CANADA. THE ARTICLE PIQUED MY INTEREST AND I WONDERED IF THERE MIGHT BE A DOCUMENTARY TO EXPLORE. I SOON LEARNED HOW GEORGE FEARED HIS BUSINESS IDEA WOULD FAIL. HIS IDEA WAS AHEAD OF ITS TIME. THE COHORT OF MEN AND WOMEN THAT HE WOULD BE MARKETING TO WERE THE SAME GROUP THAT HAD THEIR SEXUALITY DRIVEN UNDERGROUND DURING THE "FRUIT MACHINE ERA." HOW COULD THEY BE COMFORTABLE LIVING IN A RAINBOW FLAG ADORNED BROWNSTONE IN THE HEART OF OTTAWA'S GAY VILLAGE? THIS WAS THE SAME GROUP THAT HAD ONCE ATTENDED "STRAIGHT-WALKING PARTIES" – PRIVATE GATHERINGS BETWEEN GAY GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AND THEIR STRAIGHT FRIENDS WHO WOULD TEACH THEM HOW TO APPEAR MORE HETEROSEXUAL AT THE OFFICE. AND WHY? TO AVOID SUSPICION, TO STAY SAFE, AND TO KEEP THEIR CAREERS.

I LEFT THAT COFFEE MEETING BOTH SHOCKED AND INTRIGUED, AND I BECAME PREOCCUPIED WITH QUESTIONS. DID THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT REALLY CONSTRUCT A GAY DETECTION DEVICE TO USE AGAINST ITS OWN EMPLOYEES? DID THEY ACTUALLY INSTRUCT POLICE TO PROFILE THESE SAME EMPLOYEES BECAUSE THEY WERE FEARED TO BE TARGETS FOR RUSSIAN SPIES? I STARTED TO ASK MY FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES IF THEY HAD EVER HEARD OF "THE FRUIT MACHINE". NO ONE HAD, AND MOREOVER, ALL WERE INCREDULOUS. I STARTED DOING SOME PRELIMINARY RESEARCH AND FOUND A FEW REFERENCES ONLINE ABOUT A HOMOSEXUAL DETECTION DEVICE THAT WOULD READ PUPILLARY RESPONSES OF MEN AND WOMEN EXPOSED TO SAME-SEX PORNOGRAPHIC IMAGES. I LEARNED THAT IT WAS ONCE HOUSED IN A LAB AT CARLETON UNIVERSITY BUT HAD BEEN DESTROYED LONG AGO. THE INFORMATION I DISCOVERED SEEMED LIFTED FROM THE PAGES OF A SCI-FI THRILLER, NOT ONES FROM CANADIAN HISTORY AND YET THE MORE I RESEARCHED, THE MORE IT TOOK SHAPE AS FACT. I WAS STUNNED. I COULDN'T BELIEVE THAT THIS PURGE HAPPENED IN CANADA, AND FOR THE LENGTH OF TIME THAT IT HAPPENED AND HOW IT WAS LARGELY AN UNTOLD STORY. THIS WAS RECENT HISTORY.





WHAT WERE SOME CHALLENGES IN MAKING THE FILM?

MY REAL CHALLENGE IN MAKING THIS FILM WAS TWO-FOLD: FINDING SURVIVORS WILLING TO TALK, AND FINDING A BROADCASTER WILLING TO SUPPORT THE FILM. MY ABILITY TO REMAIN WILDLY IDEALISTIC IN THE FACE OF MANY ROADBLOCKS BECAME KEY. THESE ROADBLOCKS TOOK THE FORM OF COUNTLESS STONEWALLED ACCESS TO INFORMATION REQUESTS, REFUSAL TO TALK FROM BOTH THE RCMP AND THE MILITARY POLICE, AND HARD TO UNEARTH SURVIVORS IN A PRE-SOCIAL MEDIA ERA THAT ONCE FOUND, WERE TOO AFRAID TO GO ON THE RECORD. FINANCING THIS PROJECT WASN'T EASY, EITHER. FAILING TO SECURE A BROADCAST LICENCE IN THOSE EARLY DAYS WAS DISHEARTENING BUT I FORGED AHEAD. WE SELF-FINANCED FURTHER RESEARCH WHICH ULTIMATELY BORE FRUIT (PARDON THE PUN). IN THE SPRING OF 2017, TVO COMMISSIONED THE FILM.

IN HISTORICAL DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKING IS CREATIVITY COMPROMISED OR IS THERE MORE FREEDOM?

FOR ME, ART IS ANYTHING THAT MOVES YOU. ANYTHING THAT STIMULATES BOTH THE MIND AND THE HEART AT THE SAME TIME. AND I THINK THAT IS WHY HISTORICAL DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKING IS SUCH A RICH LANDSCAPE. THERE IS A TRUTH, A GRAVITAS, TO STORIES FROM OUR PAST THAT IMMEDIATELY CREATES INTRIGUE AND DRAMA. AND THAT IS A WONDERFUL PLAYGROUND FOR STORYTELLERS!

WHAT WAS ONE OF THE MORE SURPRISING AND/OR APPALLING THINGS YOU LEARNED FROM THE INTERVIEWS?

WHEN I FIRST STARTED RESEARCHING THIS FILM, I WAS SIMPLY SHOCKED AND APPALLED THAT THIS HAPPENED, ESPECIALLY IN CANADA, AND FOR THE LENGTH OF TIME THAT IT DID. THIS WAS A DECADES-LONG PURGE CAMPAIGN THAT BEGAN IN THE 1950S AND LASTED UNTIL THE EARLY 1990S. RECENT HISTORY. BUT WHAT SURPRISED ME THE MOST WERE CONSEQUENCES FAR BEYOND THESE SURVIVORS LOSING THEIR CAREERS. FOR MANY, LOSING THEIR JOBS WAS THE LEAST OF WHAT THEY ENDURED AS A RESULT OF THIS CAMPAIGN. POVERTY, HOMELESSNESS, HAVING TO GO BACK IN THE CLOSET, SUBSTANCE ABUSE, CONVERSION "SHOCK" THERAPY, SEXUAL ASSAULTS, AND FOR SOME – SUICIDE. THE CONSEQUENCES OF THIS CAMPAIGN, AS ONE OF OUR SURVIVORS CAPTURES PERFECTLY IN THE FILM, WAS A SCENARIO FROM A HORROR STORY.

HOW DID THE SURVIVORS REACT TO THE FILM?

I REMEMBER TELLING THE SURVIVORS THAT MY YARDSTICK FOR MEASURING THE SUCCESS OF THE FILM WAS WHETHER THEY WERE PROUD OF THE FINAL CUT. FOR ME, THAT WAS EVERYTHING. YES, YOU HAVE TO DELIVER A WORTHY FILM TO YOUR BROADCASTER AND YES, EVERYONE LOVES FESTIVAL SUCCESS, BUT DO YOUR FEATURED VOICES LIKE THE FILM? ARE THEY PROUD OF IT? THAT IS THE CORE RESPONSIBILITY THAT I ALWAYS PRIORITIZED. AND TO ANSWER THE QUESTION, THE SURVIVORS ARE PROUD OF THE FINAL CUT.

THE TEAM



SARAH FODEY (PRODUCER, DIRECTOR, WRITER)
[IMDb](#)

SARAH IS AN OTTAWA-BASED FILMMAKER AND QUEER ADVOCATE. HER CAREER IN FILM AND TELEVISION HAS SPANNED 20 YEARS AND A VARIETY OF PROJECTS. SARAH CONCEIVED OF THE IDEA FOR *THE FRUIT MACHINE* IN THE EARLY 2000S AFTER LEARNING OF CANADA'S DECADES-LONG WITCH HUNT AGAINST HOMOSEXUAL PUBLIC SERVANTS AND MILITARY PERSONNEL. THE FILM REQUIRED A LENGTHY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS WHICH EVOLVED IN TANDEM WITH THE FACTUAL EVENTS AROUND THE JOURNEY TO JUSTICE FOR THE SURVIVORS OF CANADA'S LGBT PURGE. AFTER THE RELEASE OF *THE FRUIT MACHINE*, SARAH WROTE AND DIRECTED *SEX, SIN & 69*, A FEATURE DOCUMENTARY THAT UNPACKS THE PARTIAL DECRIMINALIZATION OF HOMOSEXUALITY IN CANADA IN 1969. SARAH HAS A BA IN ENGLISH LITERATURE FROM QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY, AND AN HONOURS DIPLOMA IN TELEVISION BROADCASTING FROM ALGONQUIN COLLEGE. SARAH IS A MANAGING PARTNER AT SANDBAY ENTERTAINMENT.



HAN NGUYEN (PRODUCER)
[IMDb](#)

SINCE ENTERING THE MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY IN 2002, HAN NGUYEN HAS PRODUCED IN EVERY SCREEN-BASED MEDIA FROM FEATURE FILMS, SHORTS, AND SCRIPTED SERIES TO DOCUMENTARIES, MUSIC VIDEOS, AND BRANDED CONTENT. IN ADDITION TO PRODUCING *THE FRUIT MACHINE* FOR TVO, HAN EXECUTIVE PRODUCED *NOËL EN BOÎTE*, A TELEFILM FEATURE FILM, AS WELL AS TWO SEASONS OF THE SCRIPTED SERIES *QANURLI* FOR APTN, AN INTERPROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL CO-PRODUCTION BETWEEN SANDBAY ENTERTAINMENT AND QANUKIAQ STUDIOS. HAN IS MULTILINGUAL AND PRODUCES IN BOTH ENGLISH AND FRENCH. SHE SAT ON THE BOARD OF ALGONQUIN COLLEGE'S SCRIPTWRITING PROGRAM, WAS A MEMBER OF WOMEN IN COMMUNICATIONS AND WIFT-TORONTO, AS WELL AS WOMEN IN BUSINESS ENTERPRISES. HAN IS THE PRESIDENT OF SANDBAY ENTERTAINMENT.



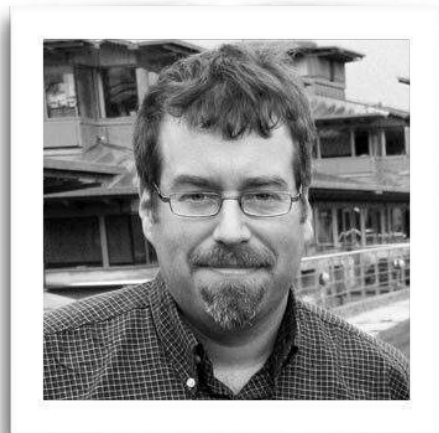
JANE JANKOVIC (EXECUTIVE PRODUCER, TVO)
[IMDb](#)

JANE JANKOVIC ORIGINALLY JOINED TVO AS SENIOR PRODUCER OF ITS GEMINI-AWARD-WINNING DAILY CURRENT-AFFAIRS PROGRAM *STUDIO 2* AND HAS BEEN COMMISSIONING DOCUMENTARIES SINCE 2007. TVO IS A PUBLIC MEDIA ORGANIZATION THAT INFORMS, INSPIRES, AND STIMULATES CURIOSITY AND THOUGHT. COMMISSIONS FOCUS ON SOCIAL ISSUES AND CURRENT AFFAIRS DOCUMENTARIES AND DIGITAL MEDIA PROJECTS THAT FOCUS ON CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL, POLITICAL, AND CULTURAL ISSUES THAT ARE OF DIRECT RELEVANCE TO CANADIAN AUDIENCES AND PROMOTE CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT. RECENT EXAMPLES INCLUDE *LOWDOWN*, *TRACKS*, *DAVID AND ME*, *THE POLAR SEA*, *THE DEFECTOR: ESCAPE FROM NORTH KOREA*, *THE LOST HIGHWAY*, AND *OUT OF MIND, OUT OF SIGHT*.



DEREK DIORIO (EXECUTIVE PRODUCER) [IMDb](#)

DEREK DIORIO HAS PRODUCED, DIRECTED, AND WRITTEN OVER 300 HOURS OF DRAMATIC, ANIMATED, AND LIVE-ACTION TELEVISION PROGRAMMING. FLUENTLY BILINGUAL, HE HAS DIRECTED DRAMAS AND COMEDIES FOR RADIO-CANADA, TVO, AND TFO, HELMING 42 EPISODES OF *FRANCOEUR*; 50 EPISODES OF *MÉTÉO+*; 29 EPISODES OF *LES BLEUS DE RAMVILLE*; AND MOST RECENTLY FOUR SEASONS OF *HARD ROCK MEDICAL*. IN 2009, DEREK WROTE AND PRODUCED *THE QUANTUM TAMERS: REVEALING OUR WEIRD AND WIRED FUTURE*, AN INNOVATIVE DOCUMENTARY ON QUANTUM PHYSICS FEATURING STEPHEN HAWKING. *THE QUANTUM TAMERS* WON THE PRIX AUDACE AT THE 2009 PARISCIENCE INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FILM FESTIVAL IN PARIS, FRANCE AND WAS NOMINATED FOR TWO GEMINI AWARDS IN 2010. DEREK IS THE PRESIDENT OF DISTINCT FEATURES.



MICHAEL TIEN (DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY) [IMDb](#)

GEMINI-AWARD-WINNING MICHAEL TIEN HAS BEEN WORKING AS A DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY AND CAMERA OPERATOR FOR OVER TWENTY YEARS. HIS DECADES OF EXPERIENCE AND INNATE TALENT FOR BEAUTIFULLY CAPTURING EMOTIONAL MOMENTS HAS MADE MICHAEL A HIGHLY SOUGHT AFTER CINEMATOGRAPHER. HE HAS COLLABORATED WITH SARAH FODEY SINCE 1999, ESTABLISHING A RELATIONSHIP OF LOYALTY, TRUST, AND EXCELLENCE.



KARL ROEDER (DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY) [IMDb](#)

KARL ROEDER IS AN ACCOMPLISHED BILINGUAL CINEMATOGRAPHER BASED IN OTTAWA, CANADA. HE HAS LENSED DOCUMENTARIES, SCRIPTED AND FACTUAL TELEVISION, COMMERCIALS, AND FEATURE FILMS. KARL HAS BEEN NOMINATED FOR GEMINI AND CANADIAN SCREEN AWARDS OVER THE COURSE OF HIS ACCOMPLISHED CAREER. HE HAS SHOT OVER 150 EPISODES OF SCRIPTED TELEVISION, DRAMA AND COMEDY, AIRING ON CANADIAN NETWORKS. KARL HAS ALSO LENSED OVER 200 EPISODES OF LIFESTYLE AND REALITY TELEVISION, AND FEATURE-LENGTH DOCUMENTARIES AIRING ON MAJOR NETWORKS INCLUDING FOX USA, FOOD NETWORK, GUSTO, TVO, W, HGTV, AND DISCOVERY. HE LOVES HIS WORK, AND BRINGS ENTHUSIASM AND EXPERIENCE TO A PROJECT, WITHOUT EGO OR HESITATION TO COLLABORATE.



MATT WEST (EDITOR) [IMDb](#)

A CREATIVE AND AMBITIOUS STORYTELLER, MATT WEST ALWAYS AIMS TO DO BIGGER AND BETTER. A GRADUATE OF THE TV BROADCASTING PROGRAM AT ALGONQUIN COLLEGE, MATT HAS WORKED WITH SOME OF CANADA'S MOST CELEBRATED PRODUCTION HOUSES, EDITING AWARD-WINNING CONTENT FOR BROADCASTERS INCLUDING DISCOVERY, BRAVO!, W, THE OUTDOOR LIFE NETWORK, HGTV, TVO, AND GUSTO. HE HAS DIRECTED AND EDITED MORE THAN 500 TELEVISION EPISODES THAT HAVE AIRED IN OVER 80 COUNTRIES, INCLUDING GEMINI-NOMINATED HITS FOR FOOD NETWORK CANADA AND HGTV. MATT HAS COLLABORATED WITH SARAH FODEY SINCE 1999.

SELECTED PRESS

THE FRUIT MACHINE: WHY EVERY CANADIAN SHOULD LEARN ABOUT THIS COUNTRY'S 'GAY PURGE'

"THERE'S NO EXCUSE FOR YOU NOT TO FIND A WAY TO IT, AND IT'S DEFINITELY ESSENTIAL VIEWING FOR ALL CANADIANS."

-PETER KNEGT, *CBC ARTS QUEERIES* (MAY 30, 2018)

THE FRUIT MACHINE ILLUMINATES CANADA'S GAY PURGE

"THIS FILM OFFERS SURVIVORS A NEW AND POWERFUL VOICE."

-ALLISON TATE, *THE ADVOCATE* (MAY 31,

2018 LINEUP FOR VANCOUVER QUEER FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCED AWARD-WINNING INTERNATIONAL, NATIONAL, AND LOCAL FILMMAKERS SHOWCASED ALONGSIDE MORE THAN 70 FILMS

"A SHARP, FUNNY, AND HEART-WRENCHING FILM THAT REVEALS THE SOBERING DETAILS OF OUR LGBTQ NATIONAL HISTORY THAT MUST NOT BE FORGOTTEN."

-STEPHANIE GOODWIN, *EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OUT ON SCREEN* (JULY 6, 2018)

VANCOUVER QUEER FILM FESTIVAL REVIEW: THE FRUIT MACHINE (DOCUMENTARY FEATURE)

"THE RESULT IS HEART-WRENCHING; IF THERE WERE A PAIR OF DRY EYES IN THE THEATRE, THEY WEREN'T IN MY ROW—OR ON THE SCREEN. *THE FRUIT MACHINE* IS A CRITICAL FILM WHICH DOCUMENTS A HORRIFYING (AND HORRIFYINGLY RECENT) HISTORY THAT HAS BEEN TOO EASILY FORGOTTEN AND OVERLOOKED BY THE CANADIAN PUBLIC."

-MEGHAN BELL, *ROOM MAGAZINE* (SEPT ISSUE,

BE AWARE: TWO ANGER-INDUCING DOCUMENTARIES OF HATE AND MALICE

"LAST YEAR, PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU DELIVERED A SWEEPING APOLOGY TO THOSE CAUGHT IN THE "GAY PURGE," AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS A SETTLEMENT PLAN TO COMPENSATE VICTIMS. FINE. BUT YOU DON'T GRASP THE BREATHTAKING CRUELTY AND THE STAMINA AND COURAGE OF THE VICTIMS UNTIL YOU'VE SEEN THIS FILM...."

-JOHN DOYLE, *THE GLOBE AND MAIL*


"FOR ITS IMPORTANCE AS A WORK OF MEMORY, FOR ITS TIMELESS RELEVANCE, FOR ITS TECHNICAL QUALITY, BUT ABOVE ALL FOR THE TROUBLING TESTIMONIALS OF THE VICTIMS IN ONE OF THE DARKEST PERIODS IN THE HISTORY OF GAYS AND LESBIANS IN CANADA, FOR THEIR COURAGE TO SPEAK OF THE ABUSE DONE TOWARDS THEM BY THEIR COUNTRY, THE PSYCHOLOGICAL TRAUMA THEY ENDURED; FOR THE THOUSANDS OF MEN AND WOMEN WHO OVER FOUR DECADES HAVE KEPT SILENT ABOUT THEIR RUINED CAREERS, AND BROKEN DREAMS, FOR THESE SOLDIERS OF TRUTH WHO REMIND US ALL OF THIS STORY, THE JURY AWARDS THE PRIZE FOR BEST DOCUMENTARY TO *THE FRUIT MACHINE*, DIRECTED BY SARAH FODEY AND PRODUCED BY TVO, ONTARIO."

ABOUT SANDBAY ENTERTAINMENT

SANDBAY IS A CANADIAN TELEVISION AND FILM PRODUCTION COMPANY. FOR NEARLY TWO DECADES, SANDBAY HAS THRIVED AT THE NEXUS OF FILM AND STORYTELLING. AS A PROUD LGBT, WOMEN, AND MINORITY-OWNED AND OPERATED COMPANY, SANDBAY CREATES EDUCATIONAL AND MOVING CINEMATIC CONTENT THAT EXPLORES STORIES AND PERSPECTIVES FROM TRADITIONALLY MARGINALIZED VOICES AND COMMUNITIES. THE COMPANY'S GAZE IS DIVERSE, INCLUSIVE, INTERSECTIONAL, POETIC, AND OF THE HEART. RECENT PRODUCTIONS INCLUDE THE HISTORICAL FEATURE DOCUMENTARY FILM, *THE FRUIT MACHINE*; THE SEVENTH AND FINAL SEASON OF THE HIT SCRIPTED YOUTH SERIES, *QANURLI*; AND *NOËL EN BOÎTE*, A FRANCO-ONTARIAN FEATURE FILM PRODUCED IN ASSOCIATION WITH TELEFILM CANADA, ONTARIO CREATES, AND UNIS TV.

 SANDBAYENTERTAINMENT.COM

 INFO@SANDBAYENTERTAINMENT.COM

 647-347-9559

 [/SANDBAYENTERTAINMENT](https://www.facebook.com/SANDBAYENTERTAINMENT)

 [@SANDBAYENTERTAINMENT](https://twitter.com/SANDBAYENTERTAINMENT)



ABOUT TVO

TVO ONTARIO IS A PUBLICLY FUNDED ENGLISH-LANGUAGE EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION NETWORK AND MEDIA ORGANIZATION SERVING THE CANADIAN PROVINCE OF ONTARIO. IT IS OPERATED BY THE ONTARIO EDUCATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY, A CROWN CORPORATION OWNED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO. TVO IS CANADA'S OLDEST EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION SERVICE. TVO AIRS A MIXTURE OF ORIGINAL CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING, DOCUMENTARIES, SCRIPTED DRAMAS, AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMS. DOCUMENTARIES ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF TVO'S JOURNALISTIC OFFERING. TVO COMMISSIONS COMPELLING SOCIAL ISSUE AND CURRENT AFFAIRS DOCUMENTARIES AND FACTUAL SERIES THAT FOCUS ON CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND CULTURAL ISSUES THAT ARE OF DIRECT RELEVANCE TO CANADIAN AUDIENCES AND PROMOTE CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT.

 TVO.ORG

tvo Never stop learning

IMAGES

