

Spring and Summer
Edition

MAY 2006

new university television society

NUTV NEWS



WE'RE MOVING

The time has come for NUTV to get out of the little winding hallway that could and in into a new permanent space. On the site of the old Chaplains center we are getting a holy new space that will be equipped with offices, a common room and a studio for top news and other fun events. It is an exciting time for NUTV as the organization prepares for the big move.

Early estimates predict the space will be available mid to late May so the summer will definitely be a chance to test out the new space. The construction crew has been moving fast and recently made Sheryl's office and the edit suites construction zones. If you haven't been

up there yet be warned, a hard hat is necessary to access the sites until the construction ends.

With a big move comes the need for a lot of help. So if you're around in May and June make sure to lend a hand with taking things up to the new space.

The executive committee is also planning to have a small private opening once things get settled so do stay tuned for that. The grand opening event will be in September once all of the kinks have been worked out and we have made the space our own. The next few months are going to be historic for our news organization and a good time to volunteer!

NUTV will also have studio-based and non-studio based television projects developed and shot over the summer. These pilots will be aired on Shaw 70 and on closed circuit television with the future opportunity of becoming a regular part of the CCT schedule. Congrats to Fazal Hamid and to the team of Azin Sadra and Alan Cho for their successful pitches.

The summer will be quite busy. Be sure to attend the summer production meetings (Wed at noon, Thurs at 6pm) for more info on how to get involved.

the news at NU

As the winter semester draws to a close NUTV begins its summer with three longer formatted projects in the works. Preparations are starting for the 2006 installments of the ever popular Documentary and Film school programs. NUTV has selected four members to take part in the Doc school this year: Arthur McComish, Richard Walker, Melissa Saic and Sheryl Orr. This years Film school directors are: Phina Brooks, Dax Cushman, Brson Montgomery and Lynette Lo.

Mark Anderson will return as the Film school instructor while Smita Acharyya will be facilitating the Doc school.



Special Interest Articles:

- The issue of Consistent hosts on Full Frontal
- HDTV: What is it? And what does it mean for the future of broadcast television.
- Innoversity Summit: a perspective on pitching and meeting collaborators.

Individual Highlights:

Where's Bob?

Member Talent 2

Who's Pam? 3

A New Term 4

Xmas pictures! 7

Congrats AP's 8





Adventures in Bob

As many of you know our very own Robinder has taken this year to explore the land of a thousand spices. The following are some quotes from his travels in India:

'As we were pulling away one dude commented that the driver was lucky that the people in the area were civil and law abiding, or else he would've gotten the beating of a lifetime. Although I thought so at first, he was not joking.' Nov. 5, 05

'I took a deep breath, and within seconds I was projectile vomiting with enough force to make even the sickest drunk proud. Somewhere in Food Heaven, a

Puri smiled, knowing it had ruined my day.' Dec. 1, 05

'They have these huge signs that say stuff like: 'Speed thrills, but also KILLS!'' Dec. 21, 05

"Diu is a fabulous little island with great beaches that, when not overrun by indian tourists, are actually quite pleasant." Jan. 12, 06

"The people were wonderful, the meals were fantastic (despite the fact that they contained no onion or garlic and were only served twice a day) and we found a job that we could really get behind - rebuilding a roof." Feb. 20, 06

NUTV's Support of Member Works Gets Noticed

While running a busy schedule NUTV still manages to encourage partnerships with members for independent works. The recent Above the Line Film Festival put on by Mount Royal College was a great example of NUTV's high standard and support. NUTV members had a respectable 6 pieces shown at the festival. They included summer indie productions, mini-documentaries and news pieces. Works were shown by Robiunder Uppal, Deborah Heslop, Afzal Huda/Donna Serafinus, Melissa Saic, and one of mine. All of these pieces were inspired by stories of personal interest to the filmmakers, and were supported as productions by NUTV. We can also be proud that our very own Executive Director Michelle Wong was one of the judges and NUTV was a sponsor of the event. It is worth noting that a previous NUTV member John Joffe also had a piece in the festival.

There are opportunities for NUTV members to take on works that complement Full Frontal but that can go beyond the average boundaries of that format. As we move into Film and Doc School season, I hope we can all remember the fantastic opportunities NUTV provides.

I also cannot go without saying that the Above the Line festival is not the only claim to fame of NUTV members. Just in my own tenure as a NUTV member I know of several members works that have been in festivals locally and nationally. These members include Afsal Huda, Ed Lee and Farrah Alladin. I encourage those of you that were not mentioned to write and complain. We want to hear

about your successes and take pride in our beginnings at NUTV.

By laying the foundations of knowledge and experience, members clearly can produce some quality work. My own personal note of thanks goes out to NUTV for support of my own documentary project, which had its beginnings in Doc School last year. My project has gained support from both the Alberta Foundation for the Arts and the NFB. I couldn't have done it without the support of NUTV. Another element to mention is because of financial support of these agencies I have been able to gain technical support from other places outside of NUTV. This opened up my eyes to the greater film community in the city, which is waiting for all of us NUTV members who have an itch to make independent work. Robinder Uppal is a good example of this, having made an independent piece through EMMEDIA last year.

Lets not forget to keep up the good fight at NUTV. No matter what paths our independent film aspirations take, I for one am glad to have the chance to keep my chops up at NUTV editing and doing camera on a regular basis. NUTV has never been better.

Hope to see you soon!

Colleen Sharpe

*Note: Colleen's documentary Wake of A War Bride is scheduled to screen in June 2006

The Issue of Consistency

By Juan Delgado

It is safe to say that this season of Full Frontal has been one of the strongest in recent memory. However, with the quality of the show continuing to rise the issue of consistency has become a topic of conversation.

This season featured the consistent hosting of Michelle Seto (news), Andy Eyck (movie reviews) and myself (show host) for the majority of the year. Even though these individuals have helped to shape the quality, members are wondering whether this the best route to take. Who should be allowed to host and why?

I recently caught up with Richie Walker, an associate producer at NUTV and discussed the issues revolving consistency.

-How do you feel about having a consistent host for Full Frontal, news and movies reviews?

"I like consistency; I think it's a great way to improve the quality. I would like to see all regular show slots have a consistent host."

-What do you think about the fact that others want to host but are not able to?"

"I that's a difficult issue. From a producers point of view the more consistent the members the more

time you can invest in the quality, but at the same time as a volunteer organization you want to involve as many people as you can and improve the social aspect of NUTV. It is a valid argument but as we increase the variety of programs there will be other ways to get involved."

-What do you think of a selection process to find the most qualified people for the job?

"I personally like the idea. I think to improve the show you need to invest time into peoples' hosting, reporting, camera and editing skills. In order to justify investing that time into people you need to know that they are going to stick around a while."

Although this is only Richie's opinion, expect to find more consistency at NUTV. Next year will be a chance to build on the current work that has been to done to shape this news organization and will require dedicated volunteers for this to happen.

It's all about finding a balance between member involvement and quality. However, by communicating with the staff change is possible, because, ultimately, the volunteers shape the look and content of NUTV. So don't be afraid to voice your opinion and come up with creative solutions and they just might be implemented



Richie Walker, Associate Producer for the news section.

Introducing Pam Taylor



You might have seen me hanging out around the NUTV office. I am currently attending Bow Valley College with my long-term goal in Film Production.

I was very lucky to be taken in by NUTV and its members to complete my practicum work for one of my classes.

I have the opportunity to review past and present stories to retrieve information and complete the ongoing database. The database

holds the past five years of stories including titles, time-in, duration, and segment information.

In doing so I gain the knowledge in filming procedures, and the amount of work that has to go into making one segment.

Also I get to be a part of a team atmosphere that deals with television production. For this and the warm welcome I received, I would like to thank everyone at NUTV!

Sincerely, Pam Taylor

A New Term Begins

NUTV recently held its 2006-07 election for a new group of board and executive committee members. Although, a lot of the same faces return for another term there will be a couple of popular faces have joining.

Tim Poon a long time member of NUTV is the new Treasurer taking the position from Christina Lobreau who has served the position for a number of years. As we welcome Tim to the board, we want to thank Christina for her

multiple years of hard work. Arthur McComish and Colleen Sharpe return as the Secretary and Chair respectively.

The Executive Committee will have one new face as Richie Walker accepted the position of Volunteer Coordinator taking over from Juan Delgado.

The new term began on May 1st, 2006 and look for these member to continue making a difference at NUTV.

NUTV and HD TV

By Tim Mooney

I would like to give a short summary about the highlights of a conference I attended on the change over to High Definition (HD) TV. What was most striking was the amazing quality of the footage shown by the conference delegates. In particular, news and documentary footage will have the potential to produce a much more powerful emotional impact, literally the movie theater is moving into our living rooms.

Unfortunately even though the costs have gone down it is still quite expensive to produce HDTV. The main costs of moving over to HD are in terms of cameras and player/recorder decks. For example an HD record deck costs \$80,000 and a camera costs a similar amount. The option is to go HDV, which is a lower grade format of HD. Sony has an HDV camera that costs about \$8,000.00 and a record deck for about \$5,000.00. These cameras and decks can shoot at a pixel ratio that matches true HD (i.e, 1080i) but they lack the ability to reproduce as much color clarity. Upgrading our edit systems would cost about \$4,500.00 per system, basically the only thing we can keep from the old systems is the monitors and the key boards, we would have to buy completely

new computers and software. The good news is that this new system would be capable of handling any format of video.

So would it be worth it for us to change over to HDV? The pros: 1) it puts us on the forefront of current television technology. People training here would be able to acquire an invaluable knowledge base in that technology. 2) Documentaries or dramas done in this format by NUTV members will have a greater market potential, especially for the next couple of years. The cons: 1) Some people are saying HDV might not last as a format; so equipment bought in this format might quickly become obscure. 2) The equipment is much more complex to work with. 3) We are not able to broadcast in an HD format on campus. However, this will be changing and we are currently looking at purchasing new monitors that are HD ready. Moreover this might actually be a pro because it would enable us to start archiving our master tapes in HD which would be preferable and without a doubt, eventually, everything is going to be changed over to HD. In Feb 2009 the US is going to stop broadcasting in SD and Canada is currently looking to do the same by 2011.

*Note: NUTV plans to update its current equipment with as the new technology becomes available.



*Sony HVR-Z1U
1080 camcorder*

HDTV for YOU and ME

By Tinu Sinha

The stage for high definition digital video (HD) is set. It's only a matter of time before all media flows into this format (with the possible exception of the still higher standard 35mm film).

Analog shutdown of television broadcast transmission is set for shutdown in 2008 or 2009 in the US. Keep your ears tuned to this new legislation.

Difference of standard def vs. high def:

Depth of field, resolution, color space sampling, frame rates, and compression/decompression schemes - all factors to consider when planning production in HD (this in regards to HD vs. film, as well).

Highlights:

HD can lower costs of production, especially with greater emphasis on using digital tools to tell stories. This applies to news and ENG applications, as well. **Harold Protter**, Senior VP, Technology, WB TV, brought clips from the new HD News Network which demonstrated the use of HD cameras in the field. He indicated he would rather use a cheap \$3000 consumer grade **HDV** camera than the most expensive standard definition camera.

Although **HDV** represents a considerable improvement over standard def, it's still not an acceptable broadcast standard. For the most part, it's not truly HD, either. For example, **Shana Vickers Jacobus**, Manager of Production and Development at Discovery HD Theater has the bar set pretty high. They want no more than 25% of footage in a program to come from **non-HD** sources. HDV is considered a non-HD

source. Even Super 16mm film transferred as HD telecine is unacceptable!

For NUTV to move into camera usage, however, HDV represents a semi-acceptable alternative to HD. In the long run, NUTV needs proper HD cameras equivalent to those used in the ENG setting. Further, an HDV camera would represent an excellent training platform for NUTV, in keeping with our mandate, without incurring a huge cost (until such time as it is deemed worthy to buy full ENG HD-capable cameras).

This also sets an interesting problem in motion for content providers. All video archival in the world is available only in standard def... up until now. Watch as news media orgs and agencies slowly dump the most critical bits of standard def video-recorded history via UPRES to HD. *It's costly*, and much of documented human history won't be UPRES'd! **Mark Starowicz**, Senior Executive Producer, English TV Documentary Production for CBC termed the disappearance of now obsolete archival as, 'the black hole of television media history'.

Naturally, the use of HD as a production format necessitates the upgrade of edit platforms and broadcasters must require it. Many experts have suggested that Canadian broadcasters will demand HD deliverables, probably once they lose a significant share of the Canadian market to US competition. It will be interesting to see how government legislation of **Can Con** and broadcast agencies deal with the significant pull from the US, as Canada will likely knee-jerk its way through the changes.



HDV-730S is comparable to high-end SD camcorders.

Networking at the Innoversity Creative Summit

A perspective on pitching and meeting collaborators

By Tinu Sinha

When you get out there and start shopping around ideas, the only chance you've got to successfully get projects going is network. While attending the Innoversity Creative Summit 2005 in Toronto, I continued this process for myself on behalf of the NUTV Documentary School workshop series and some personal projects. To give you an idea of the challenges of getting an idea supported with cash, I met road block after road block with CBC regarding support for Doc School. I wanted to get CBC to sponsor. The key is, really, to know the right people. I learned very quickly that you need to get an audience with the people who can authorize and make decisions for themselves. There are a lot of people representing agencies that aren't the ones who can help you, beyond finding you the right person to speak with. So, to sum up some points:

- Finding the right people won't happen until you network.
- Remember, too, it's an exchange. You, yourself, also know people that others might benefit their projects.
- Also, it's long-term. You can't expect immediate results. A good figure is probably two years before some contacts start paying off. Which leads to the next point...
- Follow up and keep a binder of your important contacts, where you met them, and what you talked about.

I didn't get any support from CBC in the end, and I didn't get any of my personal works broadcast. However, I did meet a lot of writers. That was my second objective at Innoversity, but that's a long term pay-off.

I applied to CHUM delegate scholarships for Innoversity at the suggestion of NUTV member, Afzal Huda, who'd attended the previous year. Both Afzal and I got scholarships to attend. I found Innoversity to be an excellent venue for meeting

Afzal and Tinu in Toronto, Sept. 05.



talented Canadians from culturally diverse communities in a comfortable environment. Innoversity provides a forum to develop diversity in the Canadian film and television landscape, a real challenge, surprisingly enough (or maybe not so surprising).

Attending as a producer was particularly great, because I got to network without having to worry about pitching broadcasters. Though there were broadcasters there, I didn't have any pressure to hit them up for cash, since I was looking to find projects, first. It's worth noting I got to take pitches from writers informally... if you're a writer (and producer) you're always 'pitching', though I hate that word. But the point is all that matters is, can you get your message through?

The workshops offered were amazing: "*Art of the Pitch*", "*Getting to Yes*", and "*Building Leaders: Diversity in Action*" – to name a few. The first gave me perspectives into the newsroom pitch, as taught by Sandra Porteous, journalist at the CBC. She said it plain and simple, reporting the news is storytelling. You have to engage the audience on the level of relevancy of content, and uniqueness of the approach. Who says you can't be creative with news reporting, especially when you're at NUTV!? The biggest problem in pitching stories, is that everyone's afraid of looking stupid. CBC has what they call, '**the ten minute rule**'. It says no matter how 'plain', or 'boring' you think the idea pitched is, you're going to love it for ten minutes! That means, no groaning or frowns across the newsroom. For ten minutes, everyone participates in finding something about it that excites them! Development. Development. Development. Research. Research. Research.

Married in Paradise



Congratulations to Naomi Tercier who was recently married in the mountains. This former NUTV board member serves as proof that there is actually life after NUTV!

We want to wish Naomi and her new husband all the best in their future together and keep looking good. Can anyone say, 'a television couple'?

NUTV SINFULLY CELEBRATES THE SEASON



"A NUTV Xmas included delicious treats, games, year-in-review, and a controversial gift exchange. Good times indeed!"





About our Organization:

NUTV is a registered non-profit society whose primary purpose is to provide University of Calgary students and other members of the community to participate in television production.

A TOAST TO THE WINTER AP's

Phone: 403.220.3392

Fax: 403.210.8107

Advertising Opportunities

Need to get your message out to adults 18-29? If the answer is yes, you should be advertising on NUTV's Campus Community

This season of Full Frontal has been one of the strongest in recent years with a new format for top news, edgier A&E segments and unique angles in sports. This is in large part due to the all-star associate producer who have helmed the winter installment of Full Frontal.

Richie Walker has continued to build on his vision for top news since returning as he returned for another for another term. Thomas 'the tank engine' has taken his extensive experience covering A&E and

lead the way by securing many great interviews like Sue Johansson. While Justin has done his part to make the sports section an entertaining and unforgettable part of the program. Bryson Montgomery should also be mention for his hard work as field director, making sure the live-to-tapes run smoothly.

Thank you guys for all of your hard work, you're effort is securing the future for NUTV as an alternative media source in Calgary.

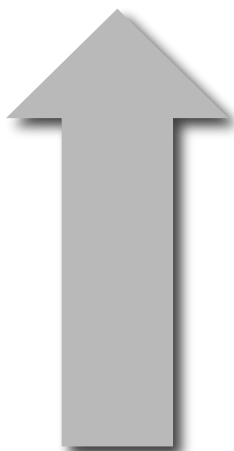


Bryson interviews Tommy Chong.

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.nutv.ca



NUTV Campus Community Television

NUTV Campus Community Television Channel 17 on Campus Community Television 24hrs a day 7 days a week

NUTV Primetime!!

- . Turn it on and Up Mondays to Fridays from 4 - 7
- . For Live to air events such as U of C Dino games, lecture series
- . SU events and elections, NFB documentaries, Movies that Matter
- . NUTV produced Indies and docs, Full Frontal and more!

Watch Full Frontal CC (closed captioned) on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at noon.

