



zoran dragelj

filmmaker / videographer / artist



ZORAN DRAGELJ – BIOGRAPHY

Zoran Dragelj is an independent filmmaker/videographer and auteur from Vancouver, British Columbia and a graduate in *Fine Arts – Film & Video* from the **Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design** (ECIAD).

Following graduation, his work has focused primarily in the fields of video production and motion picture. This was the natural direction for his career to take as, during his time at Emily Carr, he worked extensively with both mediums, supplementing this experience with film and video courses as well as attending seminars to increase his working knowledge of the current trends in standards and technology.

Even prior to his collegiate studies, Zoran had expressed an avid interest in film and video production. During his formative years, while attending King George Secondary School, he participated in the production of **Coming Up**, produced by Perry Long for the Ministry of Education and directed and produced the short video **Getta Life**, winning first prize in the Lower Mainland Region of BC Dairyland's annual "It's Cool to be Yourself" contest. In the same year he also participated in **Ailanthus**, a project for inner city youth where he found a mentor in local cinematographer Don Hunter, from whom he received professional instruction.

In 1994, Zoran received both the **Joseph Golland Award** and **Memorial Scholarship** for "*up-and-coming filmmaker*". May 1997 saw his selection as a finalist in the **1997 National Apprenticeship Cinematography Training Program** by the Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television. Several of Zoran's early works, including **When You Get Old** (1995), and **Moving Plates** (1996) have enjoyed international screenings at some of the world's top film festivals, and have been broadcasted on Production Parade (Rogers Community 4), and Videoconexions (Knowledge Network). At his Emily Carr Institute graduation, Zoran premiered both **Celluloid Souls** (1997) and **Simulacra** (1998).

A successful international film festival tour followed wherein **Moving Plates** garnered enough attention to warrant worldwide distribution from a Los Angeles distributor. ZedTV (CBC) also aired **Moving Plates** in 2004 and **Fast** in January 2006. In 1998, Zoran created **Aboriginal Kaleidoscope**, a First Nations film and video retrospective, which showed at several international film festivals. He also taught a video class for youth aged 10 to 15 years at **The Crofton House School**, and organized a series of independent film and video shows called **Exposure** that were screened at Vancouver's Pacific Cinemathèque every few months. Zoran also developed an interactive CD ROM for the **Insurance Corporation of British Columbia's (ICBC)** Road Sense Program, and has directed **UNICEF's** Halloween's Partners for Safety PSA that was broadcasted locally on VTV (Vancouver Television) and UTV-Global. As a business partner with **Attention Media**, a multi-media company, Zoran created venue presentation for **VANOC 2010** as well for **Kootenay Rockies Tourism**. Zoran has been instrumental with the creation of **Blitzcinema Entertainment**, a digital media network that showcases digital media content in various genres including made-for-web original independent productions, comedy, animation, drama, and documentary.

Most recently Zoran's work was cited by Chris Gehman and Steve Reinke in their book **The Sharpest Point: Animation at the End of Cinema** and will be featured in **Made In Canada**, a documentary by Marilyn Gray. In 2005 he presented his first major retrospective of his films and videos in Florence, Italy. In addition, some of his short films were recently exhibited in New York, Williamsburg-Brooklyn, Milan, Toronto, London, Berlin, Vienna, Madrid, Montréal, New Haven, Sao Paulo, Stockholm and Vancouver galleries. His films and videos are in transmediale (Berlin) archive collection as well contributed to **Europeana**, the European Union's virtual library for the preservations of cultural heritage and on **GAMA** (Gateway to Archives of Media Art) network which unites many of Europe's most prominent Media Art institutions, specializing in the long-term preservation and presentation of Media Art. In May 2009, Zoran was elected as the first **Alumni Association** representative on the Emily Carr University's Senate and in

2012 he was reappointed for another 3-year term. From 2015-2020, Zoran was a directing & film theory instructor at The Canadian Film & Television Institute.

Zoran remains dedicated to the aspiration of leaving his mark in the world of motion pictures and visual art.

Despite his often-busy schedule, Zoran remains enthusiastic about his work and is always interested in discussing new projects. He can be reached at **604-771-8737** or **zoran75@yahoo.com**

Zoran Dragelj CV

Zoran Dragelj is an award-winning filmmaker with a mélange of talents: director, cinematographer and a visual artist. Zoran remains versatile and dedicated to the aspiration of leaving his mark in the world of motion pictures.

media works (super 8mm / 16mm – video / digital video)

2023	Da li me znaš – Sampass (music video), Mi Amigo (digital documentary video)
2022	Rolling Stock (digital video), Beto
2021	Stone Soup (dance video documentary with Karen Jamieson Dance Company), Flowing Flow (digital video)
2020	Morning (digital video), Blue Balloon (digital video)
2019	Friends Like These (feature film) * multiple awards winner, Jamar (tribute to A.F. Stasenko)
2018	Next Stop Main Street (digital video) * finalist MiMO Film Festival (Milan, Italy), Sunshine Paradise – Kives (music video)
2014	Elevate 2 (digital video)
2012	Information Overload series (video) Sequence #1 (short version)
2011-13	Ignite Youth Festival (video)
2009	Vexed (video)
2006	Recollection (video), Elevate (video)
2005	Fast (video)
2003	VANOC Venues presentation series (video)
2001	The Move (video)
2000	Memories of Simulacra (video), Spalato (video)
1999	UNICEF BC (National PSA), Search (video)
1998	Simulacra (16mm film), Crofton House video class (video)
1997	The Search (16mm film), Celluloid Souls (16mm film), Scrap Book II (16mm film), Shalom Dancers (video/documentary)
1996	Moving Plates (16mm film), Planet of the Arts (video), Bird Watching (video), Scrap Book II (video)
1995	When you get old (16mm film), Zoran is Breathless (video), Scrap Book (video)
1994	A Memoir (8mm film), A Dream or Reality (video), A Dream (video), One more time (video), Precast Structures (video), Road Chronicles (video)
1993	The Children of the Forest (video), Getta Life (video) * winner <i>Cool To Be Yourself</i> competition

education/training

1998	Canadian Cinematography Workshop & Panavision Camera Course
1997	National Apprenticeship Training Program (NATP) by Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television
1993-97	Emily Carr Institute of Art & Design Fine Arts – Film & Video (instructed by David Rimmer, Chick Rice, Peg Campbell, Moira Simpson, Jan-Marie Martell, Gary Lee-Nova, Sam Carter, Dr. Randy Lee Cutler, Dennis Burke, Tom Hudson, Marilyn Burgess, Art Perry, John Wertschek, Martin Rose, Laurie Milner, Sandra Semchuk, Janice Ball, Deborah Koenker, Steve Weiner, Sylvia Scott, Dennis Vance, Nora Blanck, Carolyn Gisler, Patrik Andersson, Carole Itter and Guy Bennett)
1993	Ailanthus Performing Center for Youth (Cinematography mentorship with Don Hunter, CSC)
1992-93	Career Art Program & Student Curator Program at Vancouver Art Gallery (VAG)
1990-91	Acting classes at Take One Academy of Film & TV with Patricia Dahlquist / Perry Long
1988-93	King George Secondary School (art: Malcolm McTaggart, drama: Judith Berlin)

selected exhibits/performances

2023	Through the Celluloid Veil Part 2 @ Cineworks Independent Filmmakers Society, (November 30 th) Vancouver, Canada
2022	Through the Celluloid Veil: A Retrospective @ Cineworks Independent Filmmakers Society, (September 16 th) Vancouver, Canada
2021	part of Mocksim collective screenings (May - June)
2021	screened during London Gallery Weekend (June 4 th – 6 th) London, UK
2021	Sussex Festival of Ideas (June 9 th – 12 th) The University of Sussex, Brighton, UK
2019	Cross-Cities showcase at Sant'Agata De'Goti [Benevento\Naples - Italy] (August 9 th - 11 th)
2018	Rejoice Always - curated by Mini and Michael @ Foster Eastman Gallery, Vancouver (May-June)
2015	Digital Carnival, Richmond World Festival (Richmond, BC) (September 5 th)

2014 Showcase at 20th "Independent Arts" Festival (Sint-Niklaas, Belgium) (April 25th - 27th)
 2013 Contemporary Art Festival at Villa Farsetti (Venice, Italy) (October 5th – 20th)
 2013 The Gateway Project as part of Project For Empty Space @ Penn Station (New York, NY)
 2012 Retrospective @ International Multimedia Art Festival (Yangon, Myanmar)
 2011 Retrospective @ Kulturhuset, Stockholm, Sweden
 2010 Retrospective @ Projektraum für Kunst, The Absence of Art, (Berlin, Germany)
 2008 Optical Allusions @ Pacific Cinematheque (Vancouver, BC)
 2006 Perspectives program at Brunel University of West London, UK
 2006 Showcase at Vierkante Zaal, (Sint-Niklaas, Belgium)
 2006 TAC (Temporary Art Centre) (Eindhoven, the Netherlands)
 2005 Film & Video Retrospective @ Centro per l'Arte Contemporanea Luigi Pecci, (Florence, Italy)
 2005 Evolution Alumni Exhibition 80th Anniversary of Emily Carr Institute, Vancouver
 2000 Cineworks 1980-2000 Twenty Years of Independent Filmmaking in British Columbia showcase
 1997 Emily Carr Grad Show Showcase
 1991 "Comin' Up" video production produced by Perry Long for the Ministry of Education

artist grants/awards/scholarships

2021 The Best Drama Award for Friends Like These at Only The Best Film Awards (OTB), Miami, FL, USA
 2020 Multiple winner, Best First Time Producer for Motion Picture and Festival Director's Choice at The MMXXI Foreman Empire Productions International Film Festival in Atlanta, GA, USA
 2014 The Canada Council for the Arts Travel Grant
 2008 The Canada Council for the Arts Travel Grant
 2005 The Canada Council for the Arts Travel Grant
 2005 The British Columbia Arts Council Travel Grant
 2004 Outreach Program: New Audience and Market Development by The Canada Council for the Arts Travel Grant
 2002 BravoFACT video production grant – Blueophorie (Michele DeMars)
 2001 The Canada Council for the Arts Travel Grant
 2000 Outreach Program: New Audience and Market Development by The Canada Council for the Arts Travel Grant
 1999 The Filmmakers Assistance Program (FAP) video production grant from National Film Board (NFB)
 1997 Cascadia Festival of Moving Images Award of Excellence
 1996 *Up-and-Coming Filmmaker*, The Joseph Golland Memorial Award presented by ACTRA
 1994 Roland B. Gordon Memorial Scholarship (Union Local 602)
 1993 Ailanthus Performing Center for Youth scholarship
 1993 *It's Cool To Be Yourself* video contest winner (Getta Life)
 1993 Kiwanis Club Award
 1993 Vancouver Central Lions Club Scholarship
 1993 VanCity "Excellence in the Community" Book Award
 1993 Soroptimist International Award
 1993 The Grade Twelve-District Scholarship Award presented for excellence
 1993 The King George High School Service Pin

curation/workshops

2023 The King George High Career Life Education Talk Series (June 9th)
 2023 Cinema lecture series at Southwest University, Chongqing, China
 2019 Manuel Piña's video art class guest (UBC) November
 2015-20 Film directing & theory instructor @ Canadian Film & Television Institute (PCTIA accredited)
 2008 Independent Showcase III curated and presented in Europe
 2005 Aboriginal Kaleidoscope III curated and presented in Europe
 2004 Independent Exposure II curated and presented in Europe
 2001 Independent Exposure I curated and presented in Europe
 2000 Aboriginal Kaleidoscope II curated and presented in Europe
 1998 An Independent Video Production workshop organized by Chapters bookstore
 1998 A video class instructor @ The Crofton House Private School
 1998 Aboriginal Kaleidoscope I curated and presented in Europe
 1997 An animation class instructor @ Steveston Art Connection
 1992-93 *Then & Now* show @ Vancouver Art Gallery (VAG) the Junior Curators' Program

juries/panels/artist talks/podcasts

- 2024 Interviewed on Arts Rational with Gerry Kowalenko for Vancouver Co-op Radio
2023 Jury member at Vancouver China Film Festival (温哥华华语电影节) Vancouver, Canada August 18th
2023 Interviewed on Redeye with James Mainguy for Vancouver Co-op Radio
2023 Interviewed on Arts Rational with Gerry Kowalenko for Vancouver Co-op Radio
2023 "Lighting language in film cinematography" lectures at Southwest University, Chongqing, China
2023 UNIQUEWAYS with Thomas Girard, Vancouver, Canada
2023 Cineworks Podcast with Brian Nguyen and Luis "Luigi" Alvarez, Vancouver, Canada
2023 Judge panel on "Throwback" an Art Rapture art show (September) Vancouver, Canada
2022 Featured on Renderyard Interviews series online with Mark Reid
2022 Student Filmmakers Online Community Spotlight podcast with Maura Nicolaita
2021 The Best Film in Competition Short Category jury member at Split International Festival of New Film (September 15th – 21st) Split, Croatia
2021 Photocene Podcast with Josie Purcell (Cornwall, UK)
2021 Alumni Career Pathway Series: Building Your Community panelist presented by Alumni Relations and Career Development + Work Integrated Learning @ Emily Carr University - February
2020 Grad Show Juror & Degree Exhibition Awards selection process @ Emily Carr University - October
2019 Grad Show Juror & Degree Exhibition Awards selection process @ Emily Carr University - May
2017 Jury member at The Canada Golden Maple Film Festival (加拿大金楓葉國際電影節) September 20th-25th
2017 Cultural guest at The 2nd Annual of the Canadian Shaolin Zen Wu Culture Festival (第二届加拿大少林禪武文化節隆重開), Richmond, Canada September 16th
2011 Featured artist on Renderyard online (October) & winner with Information Overload - Sequence #1
2011 Grad Show Juror & Degree Exhibition Awards selection process @ Emily Carr University - May
2011 Saatchi Online Artist panel member
2009 Featured video artist on Renderyard online (May) & winner with Elevate
2006 @ "Independent Arts" in Sint-Niklaas Belgium
2006 @ TAC (Temporary Art Centre), Eindhoven, the Netherlands
2003 Independent film production panel at the 28th Film Festival in Vrnjačka Banja, Serbia
1998-2000 Exposure Screenings @ Pacific Cinematheque, Vancouver, BC
1997 King George Secondary Drama Class mentor
1992 Encounters with Canada – Arts and Culture ambassador, Ottawa, ON

other/collaborations/participations

- 2024 Alumni Association Board – Vice Chair @ Emily Carr University of Art & Design (ECU)
2023 Film and Sound Mentor for Kay Huang: Crossing performance @ The Massey Theatre (December)
2023 Looking China 看中国 Project, 重庆行 Chongqing, China (April) mentor/producer
2023 VDCM: Virginia Duivenvoorden + Kay Huang: Tethered performance @ The Dance Center (June 2nd)
2022 Full Circle by The Thought Train Collective (with Charlene Vickers, Connie Sabo, Changó Cummings and the Cambodia Children's Fund (CCF). Curated by Mira Malatestinić at Pavilion 374, (July 31)
2022 Closing Exchange by Thought Train Collective (with Charlene Vickers, Connie Sabo, Changó Cummings, New Cambodian Artist and Crossmaneuver at Arts Umbrella, Vancouver (December 10th)
2022 information+impression collaboration with a sculptor Connie Sabo and a dancer Adrian de Leeuw at The Pendulum Gallery, Downtown Vancouver, BC
2019-present with Karen Jamieson and KJ Dance Company
2010-14 Cultch - East Vancouver Cultural Center & Ignite Youth Festival
2009-15 Two term Alumni Senator @ Emily Carr University of Art & Design (ECU)
2006 Getty Images' "Next Big Idea" short film competition finalist (idea short-listed to top 20 worldwide)
2002-06 Creative + venue videos for VANOC 2010
2002 with composer & sound designer Michel DeMars (Ottawa)
1999-00 Created Nationwide Halloween boxes campaign for UNICEF Canada (October)
1999-00 Created Road Sense campaign for Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC)
1998 Art Unleashed program with BC SPCA and Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design
1998-99 Video documentarian @ Sunset Community Association and Moberly Hall
1997-99 Video documentarian @ The City of New Westminster Community Heritage Commission
1996 Waterworks PSA campaign for The City of Vancouver
1996-97 with performance artist Prof. Tagny Duff
1996-97 with performance artist John G. Boehme Dip.Vis Art, BFA, MFA

1995-97 writing contributor/reviewer for Planet of the Arts ECUAD newspaper
1995 The Kiss Project with Judith Marcuse
1992-93 member of The Youth Council of Students with Mayor Gordon Campbell

distribution & collections

2019 Friends Like These (feature film) Renderyard Distribution – Amazon Prime/YouTube/TubiTV
2013 transmediale, VideoFest (Berlin, Germany) permanent archive
2013 GAMA (Gateway to Archives of Media Art) network which unites many of Europe’s most prominent Media Art institutions, specializing in the long-term preservation and presentation of Media Art
2013 European, the European Union’s virtual library for the preservations of cultural heritage
2013 Chariter - a Media Arts Gallery & performance space (New Haven, Connecticut)
2011 RecycleArt, Belgium
2002 Microcinema, Inc./Blackchair Productions & Distribution, San Francisco, CA
1998 Apollo Cinema Distribution, Los Angeles, CA
1997 Broadcasting Agreement with Knowledge: Network (British Columbia)

writing/editing/press coverage | Zoran Dragelj

2022 Friends Like These - FilmThreat Review by Sumner Forbes (January 3rd)
2022 Student Filmmakers Online Community Spotlight – Quotes from our Community feature
2021 Sumy Nona zine (UK/The Netherlands) (Winter issue)
2021 the Working Artist (UK) (September issue)
2021 the inaugural edition of 'Chewin' the Fat' (August)
2021 A.R.T. Zine Artist Responding to Issue #6 (February) Curated by Polly Bates
2021 The Working Artist IV - Featured Artists (May)
2020 Emily Carr University Alumni Relations News - Filmmaker Zoran Dragelj wins multiple awards with Friends Like These (September)
2020 Indieactivity - Case Study: The Making of “Friends Like These” (August)
2020 Art Hole: 2 - Featured Artist (July issue)
2020 Indieactivity - Zoran Dragelj, Executive Produced “Friends Like These” in Canadian Style
2020 FilmMaker Magazine This Looks Good by Tim Molloy (July)
2019 Hollywood North Magazine Review of Friends Like These (feature) by Nick Wangersky (May)
2019 A5 Magazine #22 (January issue) UK
2018 Filmmakers Global Networking Community Online (Student Filmmakers Magazine) Vol.13, No 3
2017 Wotisart? #9 (December issue)
2017 Average Art 14 (September issue)
2012 featured in Made In Canada, a documentary by Marilyn Gray
2011 This Great Society #21, July/August double issue: Ritual
2009 The Sharpest Point: Animation at the End of Cinema by Chris Gehman & Steve Reinke
2009 Visions Profile – Catching Up with Zoran Dragelj by Ghislaine Crawford, Emily Carr University of Art & Design (ECU) (Winter issue)
2005 Rosso Fiorentino, Mensila di Cultura, Politica e Spettacolo, September, Italy
2005 Diario, Art Publication, September issue, Italy
2005 Flash Art, La prima rivista d’arte in Europa, issue 253, Italy
2000 Cineworks Independent Filmmakers Society 1980-2000 by Justin MacGregor
2000 Our Students-Our Success! British Columbia’s Colleges, University Colleges, Institutes, and the Open Learning Agency published by Advanced Education Council of BC
2000 Visions 75th Anniversary – Emily Carr Grad Issue (Through a Lens by P.Roch Smith)
2000 Fast Forward profile by Ian Edwards
1998 The Record newspaper - Bridges the Cultural Divide by Theresa McManus, October 11th print issue, New Westminster, BC
1998 The Georgia Straight, by Ken Eisner, September 3-10 print issue, Vancouver, BC
1992 West End Times, October 28th issue, Vancouver, BC
1992 The West Ender, June 25th print issue, Vancouver, BC
1992 West End Times, June 10th print issue, Vancouver, BC

groups & associations

Vancouver Art Gallery (VAG) Student Curator, Vancouver Cineworks Member, Kodak Pro-Passport Member, International Press Academy Member (IPA), CPS (Canon), Emily Carr University of Art & Design Alumni Society and Association co-chair and member at large

press kit

"...I always found Zoran to be extremely hard working and dependable, and his work pushed at the boundaries of conventional film and video practice." David Rimmer, Faculty, Media Division

"...Zoran is highly principled individual with a degree of commitment to his work that is unquestioned by those who know him" Jan-Marie Martell, Film Instructor, Emily Carr Institute of Art & Design

"...He is highly talented individual who has and will contribute enormously to the field of video production and motion picture and it is based on his numerous achievements that I recommend Zoran..." Dr. Ron Burnett, RCA President & Vice Chancellor, Emily Carr University of Art & Design



<https://networking.studentfilmmakers.com>

FILMMAKERS GLOBAL NETWORKING COMMUNITY ONLINE

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Zoran Dragejli

Can you tell us about your body of work?

Zoran Dragejli: As an independent filmmaker/auteur for over 20 years I've been fortunate to work on both film and video productions of various sizes and lengths (from feature films to episodic content to short films and videos). Also, I worked on many different genres, which include everything from comedy to drama, documentary to music videos and commercials.

With a mélange of talent and skills; visual artist, music video director, and film director, I remain dedicated to the world of independent motion pictures and media arts.

In the media arts field, I'm known for my experimental or video art films and video which is unique in its interdisciplinary nature; for the use of recording and editing devices and computer code to create a composition of moving pictures and sound. It is a new cultural language – the convergence between "old-school" analog recording techniques and new digital media, in my practice used to investigate subjects inspired by modern

life, as evident in my recent works like in Information Overload.

Also, I am pondering how our culture of digital and social sharing has narrowed the gap between "creators" and "patrons." With widely available creation tools like Final Cut Pro X, Photoshop, and "democratic" means for distribution online via YouTube, Instagram, and Facebook, we're now simultaneously makers and consumers of a never-before seen amount of content.

My artistic films and videos are archived with Europeana, the European Union's virtual library for the preservations of cultural heritage and as well with GAMA (Gateway to Archives of Media Art) network and TransMediale (Berlin) is archiving my films and videos for their permanent collection.



Willy Ingers (as lead), Josh Romney (as writer/cast), David J. Quinn (as writer/cast), Madanah (cast), Bryn McCashin (DOP), Jill Zavazal (cast) and Zoran Dragejli (director, executive producer).

"Dark Harvest" starring Cheech Marin along with James Hulson (who was the writer/director/producer/talet), Tygh Runyan, AC Peterson, and Hugh Dillon. "Dark Harvest" screened at 7 major international film festival garnering 11 top festival awards. Soon after, "Dark Harvest" secured both US and Canadian distribution. Over the years I worked on several award-winning European co-productions as well.

Also, I'm a long-time member and a New Media Director at International Press Academy and Satellite Awards in Los Angeles. I also served a two-term at Emily Carr University of Art and Design as an Alumni Senator. For the last 3 years, I taught film theory and directing at Canadian Film and Television Institute and I'm a director at Intersections Media Opportunities for Youth at Society in Vancouver.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC199172>
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/friendslikethese/film/>
<https://www.facebook.com/friendslikethese/film/>

Can you describe your indie filmmaking process?

Zoran Dragejli: Being an indie filmmaker, I've been tuning my filmmaking process by trying to be well organized for every new production that I work on. This is mostly due to necessity to have everything ready with limited resources available. Also, my process heavily relies on collaboration and deals you can secure in order to make that project happen.

Creatively and artistically through a variety of filmic techniques and unique treatments and approaches to subject matter, I have tried to formulate a delicate balance between appearances of things versus the hidden emotional reality in everyday life.

Can you share with us an indie filmmaking-related "Challenge and Solution"?

Zoran Dragejli: As an indie filmmaker I'm constantly finding "challenge and

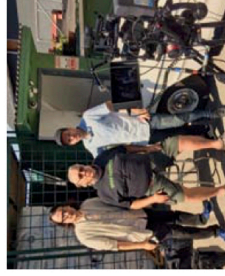
aesthetics needs. Also, we were offered to book it through an online location booking site (an owners suggestion since she like the project and was willing to help out) so we saved on location insurance.

If you could share your Top 3 Tips related to indie filmmaking or working with film projects and inspired by trial-and-error and your own discoveries through working on projects that would they be?

Zoran Dragejli: My Top 3 Tips...
 Hmm... Well, there are several tips that I stick with, but the first tip is that you, as an independent filmmaker, are constantly open to learning new skills. You can learn any bit of information or a skill from another peer or simply from your previous mistakes. Also, being receptive and listening is another great tip and a key at times. All these leads and can be tied to collaboration on many levels.

I'll give you an example. So, during the filming of "Friends Like These," a feature I directed, and executive produced, earlier this year and currently in post production, I was able to employ all of those Top 3 Tips on so many different occasions.

We filmed the whole 76-page feature film on Red Scarlet camera on location (on Bowen Island) in 6 days. We scheduled it for 8 to 9 days, but on the second last day of filming we were caught in a snow flurry and had to make up for those remaining scenes on our last day after we returned back to Vancouver Mainland. We shot on an average 13 pages a day during 14-hour days. The key here was willing to listen to our amazing crew and cast, seeing what works for each and every one and what doesn't and how we can work around it. For sure it was an impressive experience that I will apply to my future independent projects.



Zoran Dragejli (associate producer), A.C. Peterson (cast), and James Hulson (writer/director/producer/cast).

solution" as an integral part of any production I take part in. You are basically on your feet most of the time, MacGyver style looking to resolve any sort of issue that may arise. No matter if it is in the studio or on location you always gotta be prepared to some extent. As you can't foresee what may go awry, so you gotta be ready for pretty much everything. At times there are no set rules how you can resolve a challenge. The challenge to an indie filmmaking can be anything from funding, securing locations and talent to postproduction and distribution. During my recent feature film production, we had a challenge of securing a location on Bowen Island. Through some carefully searching and talking with few colleagues we were able to secure an amazing location that perfectly fitted our

Catching Up with Zoran Dragelj

Ghislaine Crawford



Vancouver filmmaker Zoran Dragelj was not one of those kids that received a Super 8 camera from his parents as a child. Growing up in Split, Croatia, his focus was always visual arts, "Drawing and painting was my direction," he says, seated in the Italian coffee house on

Commercial Drive that he frequents. His interest in art was heightened after moving to Vancouver, when he made the acquaintance of his landlord, Fonkin Laza, an established artist (and alumnus of Emily Carr). "I remember going to his atelier and just observing him," he says. It was at this time that Dragelj started making long-term plans to go to art school.

He developed an interest in film in high school and in his senior year at King George Secondary School his efforts were rewarded when *Getta Life*, a short video he produced and directed in cooperation with his high school drama department, won first prize in Dairyland's "It's Cool to be Yourself" competition. The win was a huge boost for both the small school and Dragelj. "We did not have any equipment, we just had the drive and a vision for the project." The experience shifted his focus and he made the decision to attend Emily Carr University of Art + Design (then Institute).

"Foundation [first year] was the greatest experience that can happen to a young aspiring artist," he says. He credits one of his Foundation year instructors, John Wertschek, with teaching him how to think differently, "*What's the point of doing art if you just do or think like the others? You have to be looking at the same thing from all different angles.*" As his education progressed, Dragelj began to be interested in experimental films and the various theory and processes behind them, particularly in the manipulation of film in post-production. "I would take the film and submerge it in different coats of acidity that would penetrate the emulsion." At other points he would dye exposed film stock to see the effect. The results are evident in many of Dragelj's films, including his grad project *Simulacra*, a dream-like kaleidoscope of colours that seem to melt before your eyes as you strain to capture the few recognizable images obscured behind them.

After graduation, Dragelj saw many of the short films and videos that he created at Emily Carr enjoy international screenings and acclaim at festivals as far afield as Croatia, the Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, London and New York. In 2001, he moved briefly to Los Angeles where he worked for several production companies and where he still maintains many professional ties; as New Media Director at the International Press Academy, he travels to LA once a year to work on the Satellite Awards.

Throughout his career, Dragelj has stayed in close touch with his alma matter, and in the spring of 2009, was elected as the first alumni representative on the University's Senate, a role he is honoured to take on.

Throughout his work, Dragelj has continued to bring both his painter's eye and the experimental approach that he developed at school to everything that he does. "Everything's achievable but I always try to do something that's unique and different."

published by emily carr's university advancement office
Winter 2009

VISIONS