

migrants: Atom Egoyan (Armenian Egyptian), Deepa Mehta (India), and David Cronenberg (all of his grandparents from Lithuania).

Norman Jewison is Canada's Hollywood director par excellence, directing dozens of movies and winning five Oscars for *In the Heat of the Night*. He remains the country's most successful export: his long and stellar career had made him recipient of Canada's highest awards. Yet despite making it in Hollywood, he returned home to Canada to found the Canadian Film Centre, which has helped keep Canadian talent at the forefront of global cinema.

Hollywood's most successful film director James Cameron was born in Northern Ontario. *Terminator*, *True Lies*, *Titanic*, and *Avatar* are just some of his blockbuster movies. When he was inducted into Canada's Hall of Fame, Cameron said, "Canada's not the place you're from; it's a state of mind, a set of values; it's a spirit and it's a way of seeing the world."

Recent Finnish films with international success include *Lapland Odyssey* directed by Dome Karukoski, and the short film *Do I have to take care of everything?* (*Pitääkö mun kaikki hoitaa?*) by Selma Vilhunen was nominated for an Oscar. The women-led production company Tuffi Films also received honours at the Sundance Film Festival for *The Date*. When Juho Kuosmanen won the 2010 Cannes Film Festival Cinéfondation Prize with his student film *The Painting Sellers*, it was the jury president Atom Egoyan who introduced the film to the Canadian public in Toronto. *Steam of Life* by Joonas Berghäll and Mika Hotakainen also played at Hot Docs in Toronto. The film had huge resonance with Canadian audiences who, especially in Northern Ontario, have embraced sauna culture since the first Finns immigrated to

Canada. Thunder Bay, Ontario probably has the most saunas per capita in North America.

Canada-Finland co-productions may have been slow at developing, but in 2002 the NFB produced my own first feature-length documentary *Letters from Karelia*. Shot in Canada, Finland, and Russia, it tells the story of Finnish Canadian immigrants who abandoned their new country to move to Soviet Karelia, where they hoped to build a socialist utopia. Thousands of Finns were also part of the exodus called Karelia fever. Their fate was a tragic one. The film won several awards and was broadcast in Canada and Finland. Ville Haapasalo, Finland's most famous actor in Russia, played the main character in dramatizations based on the research of the late Varpu Lindström, Canada's foremost historian on Finnish Canadian immigrant history.

Lindström also acted as consultant on *Under the Red Star*, a prequel to *Letters from Karelia* that focused on Thunder Bay's Finnish Labour Temple. The docudrama stars Finnish actors Elena Lieve and Jussi Nikkilä, and features local amateur actors from the still vibrant Finnish Canadian community. The film tells the story of Finnish Canadian immigrants who built the Finnish Labour Temple in 1910.

In 1995, Canadian and Finnish experimental film-makers Philip Hoffman and Sami Van Ingen made *Sweep*, "a road movie to memory, a realization of the need to review footsteps and past events which build myths." The connection again is Robert Flaherty, Van Ingen's great-grandfather and Hoffman's mother's northern Ontario hometown of Kapuskasing. The connections and reciprocal influences of Finland and Canada are made in the physical and conceptual idea of north.

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