

WIDE SCREEN

Canada's diversity on film

Reflecting our diverse society, Canada's filmmakers present different angles on issues such as race, gender, sexuality, history, identity and the nature of the cinema itself. Two federal government agencies—Telefilm Canada and the National Film Board of Canada—provide support for the production of Canadian films. And to assist in gaining international recognition, the Arts and Cultural Industries Promotion Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade helps film producers attend film festivals and networking events abroad.

- Haitian-born Martine Chartrand painted directly on glass to create *Black Soul* (2001), a 10-minute animated tour through the defining moments of black history. Among other awards, it won the Golden Bear for best short film at the 2001 Berlin International Film Festival in Germany. DFAIT enabled the

producer of *Black Soul* to attend the 2002 Zagreb International Festival of Animation, in Croatia.

- A critical and popular success, Thom Fitzgerald's 1997 film *The Hanging Garden* won awards in Canada and abroad. DFAIT support helped the film gain an international audience. Fitzgerald has set his latest film in the Romanian capital of Bucharest. Through a one-week period, *The Wild Dogs* (2002) follows a diplomat's lonely wife, a visiting Canadian pornographer and a reluctant dogcatcher.
- *Veils Uncovered* (2002) is an intimate journey among the veiled women of Damascus, Syria. It was written, produced and directed by Nora Kevorkian, who is of Armenian and Lebanese background. The film has won three awards in Canada, including Outstanding Documentary at the 2002 ReelWorld Film Festival in Toronto, Ontario. Kevorkian received a travel grant from DFAIT to go to the Netherlands for the 2002 International Documentary Filmfestival Amsterdam.
- Since 1986, Guy Maddin of Winnipeg, Manitoba, has created a unique cinematic language drawing on an extensive knowledge

of his Icelandic heritage and film history, particularly silent and early sound films. His latest work, *Dracula: Pages From a Virgin's Diary* (2002), is a synthesis of avant-garde film and choreography, featuring dancers of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet. Last November it won an International Emmy Award.

- Iranian-born Asghar Massombagi's *Khaled* (2001) is the story of a 10-year-old boy in inner-city Toronto who was abandoned by his North African father and then struggles to conceal the death of his mother. In 2002, DFAIT support enabled the film's producer, Paul Scherzer, to attend the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival in the Czech Republic. *Khaled* has been shown at Cannes and other festivals in Europe, Israel, the United States, Korea, Taiwan and India. It won Massombagi the Best Director Award at Karlovy Vary and the First Time Filmmaker Award at the 2002 ReelWorld Film Festival.
- In 1999, Daniel MacIvor's play *Marion Bridge* was nominated for a Governor General's Award. Last year the film adaptation, directed by Wiebke von Carolsfeld, was named Best Canadian First Feature

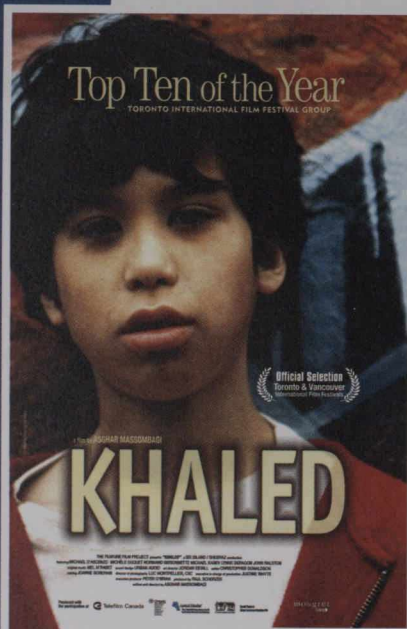
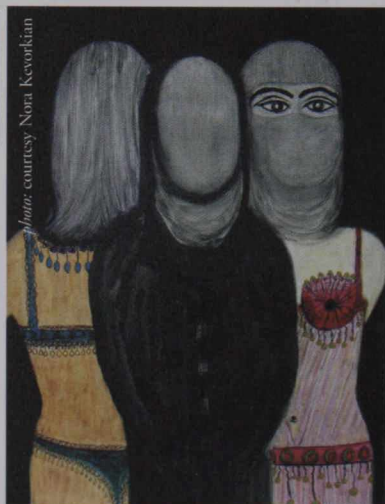


photo: Mongrel Media

Michael D'Ascenzo plays the title role in the film *Khaled*.



Veils Uncovered, a painting (watercolour on canvas) by artist/photographer/director Nora Kevorkian