



MAY 2012

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Winter came and went and I only used a snow shovel once. It was a warm winter for most of North America, of course, but for this section of southeastern Ontario that sits on the north shore of Lake Ontario, it was freakishly mild. So, instead of shovelling snow and cursing the elements, I followed the judicial proceedings taking place about 200 meters from our office. This morning walking commute leads me directly past the doors of the Frontenac County Court House through which the 3 defendants in the infamous Shafia "honour killings" proceeded for much of the winter, up from the basement holding cells into the upper regions of the building where their heavily-publicized trial took place. On several occasions I passed by just as they headed up the outdoor staircase, catching a glimpse of the handcuffed threesome before my work day began. It was a creepy and somber way to start the work day.

WELCOME TO MS. BLAKEY

In March we found the perfect fix for the hole in our staffing: Alicia Blakey. She worked for quite a few years in Montreal and brings from that stretch a lot of project management experience, administrative expertise, and graphic design skill in addition to her French language proficiency. More to the point, she laughs at our jokes, brings extra coffees, and seems to have been born happy... none of which was on her resumé. Bonus for us and, we hope, for you the client!

INTERN FROM QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY

For quite a few years the Film & Media Studies department at Queen's University here in Kingston, Ontario, has taken advantage of Eastern Script's being within walking distance to its campus by demanding our appearance for a lecture to each year's crop of film production students. Okay, it wasn't a demand, it just seemed like a good idea. This lecture includes many scary stories about students who have broken the clearance rules and thus will never again see their films shown in public after their final exam screening on campus. [Don't even think about a holiday post-dinner basement screenings for Uncle Mortie!] Jokes aside, it is difficult to have a project accepted even into a film festival if the proper permissions documentation is not submitted with it. The brighter side of the Queen's affiliation picture emerged several months ago after we realized that there might be students in the production class who secretly yearned to join up with our enforcement bureau. So from the darkness there came bright light: our first intern from Queen's Film & Media Studies! This worked out so well that she is staying on as a paid employee during her summer and fall studies overseas (France). We're thrilled to have Darienne Lancaster on board for as long as she can continue to multi-task clearance research and a Bachelor's degree.





"CLEAR ALTS" COLLECTION

We have a unique database which we call our "clear alts." That is inhouse shorthand for "alternative suggestions that have cleared in the past and might be useful for recycling someday." When we read scripts and find items that might present conflicts, our practice is to send 2 or 3 suggestions for alternate names for clients to use instead. This is a huge time-saver for productions that are working with short deadlines. At this point we have, for example, well over 400 periodical titles that have cleared in the past from which we can pick to help expedite a request such as: "We need a fake Hollywood gossip-type magazine title" or "We need a scholarly medical journal to show on the doctor's desk." We check 8 different sources to make sure that featured periodical titles are fictional, so the more options we have on-hand that worked in the past, the faster (and cheaper) it will be to re-check them and get a quick answer to art department. They are usually in a hurry!

TITLE SEARCH OPINIONS

We prepare research reports -- a.k.a. "title searches" on what's out there that might present a conflict with the title you intend to use for your production. Until a few months ago, our standard advice on the need for separate title search opinions to our Canadian clients was: We've never heard of a Canadian production needing a separate legal opinion on a title search. [The need for those opinions in the U.S. has been the norm for many years.] There has apparently been a change in what Canadian e&o providers are requiring. Many Canadian clients are now asking us to send them not only our research notes but an opinion as well. This opinion can't come from the research company, it must come from a lawyer who will charge a separate fee for it. We've put together a list of lawyers in Canada to whom we can refer you for these opinions. That information is now on our title search rate sheets. If we are the first to break this \$\$ news to you, we are sorry...

BRAND NAME RESOURCES

This newsletter's "free gift" is hidden here... we made you read a little further this time! The federal offices in North America that register intellectual property both have great free interfaces for searching their registrations. If you're trying to dream up fake names for props that will be used on-screen, these places are the first stop for pre-screening your options:

USPTO (U.S. Patent & Trademark Office)
<http://www.uspto.gov/trademarks/index.jsp>
CIPO (Canadian Intellectual Property Office):
<http://www.ic.gc.ca/app/opic-cipo/trdmmrks/srch/bscSrch.do?lang=eng>





RECENT PROJECTS

BIG SCREEN: *The Colony* - Laurence Fishburne leads the cast of humans fighting off feral cannibals in this sci-fi survival drama set in "the ice age." (still untitled) Farrelly brothers feature - The next feature from brothers Peter and Bobby Farrelly (*There's Something About Mary*, *Dumb & Dumber*, etc.) is a compilation of short films with a long and distinguished cast list including Richard Gere, Hugh Jackman, Liev Schreiber, Tony Shalhoub, Uma Thurman, Naomi Watts, and Kate Winslet. *I'll Follow You Down* - Haley Joel Osment stars in this sci-fi flavoured drama about a father who disappears during a business trip and the "eerie discovery" about that disappearance made by his son (played by Osment) which happens some years later. *Inescapable* - From the same production team responsible for the lovely feature *Cairo Time* comes the third feature from Ruba Nadda, a thriller that was shot on three continents. Stars Marisa Tomei, Joshua Jackson, Alexander Siddig. *Kill Your Darlings* - Currently shooting in New York City this "Beat generation" biopic about Allen Ginsberg, Jack Kerouac, and William Burroughs stars Harry Potter favorite Daniel Radcliffe and features Kyra Sedgwick and Jennifer Jason Leigh. Events revolve around a 1944 murder, the movie is described as a "thriller."

SMALL SCREEN: *Arthur* - We have recently taken on clearance work for the next season of this long-running PBS animated series favorite. PBS calls Arthur "the world's most famous aardvark." Based on the e-books by prominent children's author Marc Brown. *Camp Lakebottom* - a new digital 2d/HD animated series for kids from busy Toronto animation producer 9 Story Entertainment. "A 12 year old mastermind and ultra rich kid begged his parents to send him to the most dangerous and exciting summer camp in the world CAMP LAKEBOTTOM. The cabins are possessed, staff members are a real creep show and McGee and his misfit pals are having way too much fun!" *The Rick Mercer Report* - our U.S. clients might not be familiar with this man's work but there aren't many Canadians who aren't. He is simply one of the funniest people in Canada. Check out his work at <http://www.rickmercer.com> *Totally Amp'd* - Described by Variety as an "original production for mobile devices", this series aimed at the 8-14 year-old set was launched via iTunes in January. The story follows 5 teenagers who hope to break into the pop music scene. *What's Your News* - Currently seen on PBS Kids Sprout, CBC in Canada, and Nick Jr. in the UK, this clever concept blends digital puppetry, motion capture, CGI and live action to introduce smaller kids (4-7 year olds) to broadcast news formats and the world of non-fiction television.