

TALENTFUND

2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT

TELEFILM **PARTNER**
CANADA **OF ▶**
CHOICE

SUPPORTING THE NEXT GENERATION OF CANADIAN FILMMAKERS

The Talent Fund is a private donation fund dedicated to supporting and nurturing emerging storytellers. Administered by Telefilm Canada and led by a national Advisory Committee, the Fund and its donors from across the country have raised \$17 million since 2012, helping to launch careers and bring 166 films and stories to life—films that have won nearly 160 awards in Canada and abroad.

The objective of Telefilm's Talent to Watch program, supported by the Talent Fund, is to:

- support first-time filmmakers from across the country
- help emerging talent in the development of their professional portfolio
- prioritize emerging creators from underrepresented communities
- foster a culture of mentorship

YEAR IN REVIEW

- Telefilm Canada invested \$2.7M in Talent to Watch, including \$1.6M from Talent Fund partners and donors
- 17 films were funded
- In total, the Talent Fund raised \$1.97M—to provide direct project support as well as the promotion of emerging talent
- Talent to Watch increased its individual project support from \$125,000 to \$150,000 for each filmmaking team

This year has been incredibly challenging for the industry, as creators struggled with filming restrictions and festivals shifted online, limiting artist exposure after years of hard work. Now more than ever, the Talent Fund is committed to supporting diverse, emerging filmmakers at a foundational point in their young careers.

LA MARINA

After premiering at the 2020 Fantasia Film Festival, **ÉTIENNE GALLOY** and **CHRISTOPHE LEVAC**'s *La Marina* received two prizes at the Whistler Film Festival, with Fred Gervais-Dupuis winning Best Cinematography in a Borsos Film for providing “an atmospheric, poetic take on the banality of teenage life.” An honorable mention for Best Performance in a Borsos Competition Film Award went to star Rémi Goulet, with the jury lauding his “outstanding, naturalized and youthful performance.”

TWO PRIZES
AT THE WHISTLER
FILM FESTIVAL

I AM SYD STONE

ISLANDS

MARTIN EDRALIN's feature directorial debut *Islands* premiered as an Official Selection in the 2021 SXSW Film Festival, where the film was awarded a Special Jury Recognition for Breakthrough Performance for lead actor **ROGELIO BALAGTAS**.

**OFFICIAL
SELECTION**
2021 SXSW
FILM FESTIVAL



THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE THIS PLACE, ANYPLACE

Chronicling the transformation of the iconic Toronto landmark Honest Ed's, **LULU WEI**'s *There's No Place Like This Place, Anyplace* screened at virtual festivals across Canada following the film's premiere at the 2020 Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival, where it won a Rogers Audience Award.

PREMIERED
AT THE 2020
HOT DOCS

2020-21 HIGHLIGHTS

VIOLETION, directed by **MADELEINE SIMS-FEWER** and **DUSTY MANCINELLI**, received the RBC Emerging Canadian Artist Award at CIFF and the Emerging Canadian Director Award at VIFF, and was named the Best Canadian Film of 2020 by the Vancouver Film Critics Circle. It also earned five 2021 Canadian Screen Award nominations, including the John Dunning Best First Feature Film Award.

JESSIE ANTHONY's **BROTHER , I CRY** premiered at VIFF, where it also won the BC Emerging Filmmaker Award. It went on to win the Audience Choice Award at the imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival.

BONE CAGE, directed by **TAYLOR OLSON**, debuted at FIN and won awards in all its eligible categories, including the Gordon Parsons Award for Best Atlantic Feature. The film received two 2021 Canadian Screen Award nominations, including one for adapted screenplay.

LULU WEI and **ALI WEINSTEIN** won one of five Rogers Audience Awards at Hot Docs 2020 for **THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE THIS PLACE, ANYPLACE**. A broadcast version of the documentary was commissioned by the CBC and received two 2021 Canadian Screen Award nominations for directing and writing.

After premiering at the Inside Out LGBT Film Festival, **DENIS THERIAULT** and **GHARRETT PATRICK PAON**'s six-part digital series **I AM SYD STONE** landed domestic distribution and international sales with LevelFILM.

ISLANDS, by **MARTIN EDRALIN**, made its world premiere at SXSW 2021, where actor Rogelio Balagtas earned the Special Jury Recognition for Breakthrough Performance in the narrative feature competition. The film was the first-ever Filipino-language narrative feature to premiere at the festival.

NEEGAN TRUDEL's **VACARME** premiered at the Cinemania Film Festival and received two 2021 Canadian Screen Award nominations: Best Actress (Rosalie Pépin) and the John Dunning Best First Feature Award.

NICOLAS LÉVESQUE's **THE FREE ONES** (*Les Libres*) received the Cineli Digital Award at Cannes Docs and two nominations for the 2021 Canadian Screen Awards.

HEATHER YOUNG's critically acclaimed **MURMUR** received more accolades this year, including the John Dunning Best First Feature Film at the 2020 Canadian Screen Awards; the Screen Nova Scotia Award for Best Feature Film; Best Film in the International Features Competition at the Lucca Film Festival in Italy; and the Special Jury Award at the Seoul International Women's Film Festival.

Talent to Watch alumni **JASMIN MOZAFFARI** and **MAXIME DESMONS** were among the filmmakers selected for the Project Development Accelerator initiative from the Canadian Film Centre and Netflix.

NADIA, BUTTERFLY, the second feature by Talent to Watch alumnus **PASCAL PLANTE**, was the only Canadian film selected for the 2020 Cannes Film Festival. Plante's film received three nominations in major categories at the 2021 Canadian Screen Awards: Best Motion Picture, Achievement in Cinematography and Achievement in Direction.



"THE TALENT TO WATCH PROGRAM HAS GIVEN ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO STEP OUTSIDE OF MY COMFORT ZONE AND DO SOMETHING THAT I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO DO: PRODUCE FEATURE FILMS. I WANT TO THANK THE TALENT FUND, THE DONORS, THE TALENT TO WATCH PROGRAM, NOT ONLY FOR YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT ... BUT FOR YOUR EMOTIONAL SUPPORT AND YOUR EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT."

MELANI WOOD, Producer, *Bone Cage* and *Whale Sanctuary Project* (Nova Scotia)

17 PROJECTS FROM COAST TO COAST WERE FUNDED IN 2020-2021

TITLE	REGION	LEAD PRODUCER	LEAD DIRECTOR	LEAD SCREENWRITER
1+1+1	Quebec	Suzanna Wojciechowska	Yanie Dupont-Hébert	Yanie Dupont-Hébert
ABDUCTED	Alberta	Sharlene Millang	Daniel Foreman	Daneil Foreman
AINSI VA MANU	Ontario	Ania Jamila Huard	Josiane Blanc	Josiane Blanc
ALTER BOYS	Manitoba	Ryan Cooper	Jonathan Lawrence	Jonathan Lawrence
COMPULSUS	Nova Scotia	Nicole Steeves	Tara Thorne	Tara Thorne
DOUG FIND ROSE	Ontario	Grace Glowicki	Grace Glowicki	Grace Glowicki
FRED L'HANDICAPÉ	New Brunswick	André Roy	Emmanuelle Landry	Frédéric Mallet
GOLDEN DELICIOUS	British Columbia	Kristyn Stilling	Jason Karman	Gorman Lee
JOUR DE MERDE	Quebec	Kélyna N. Lauzier	Kevin T. Landry	Kevin T. Landry
LES QUINTESSENCES	Quebec	Philippe David Gagné	Philippe David Gagné	Philippe David Gagné
MARIAM	Ontario	Anam Abbas	Hamza Bangash	Hamza Bangash
MONGRELS	British Columbia	Nach Dudsdeemaytha	Jerome Yoo	Jerome Yoo
QUERENCIA	British Columbia	Jessie Anthony	Mary Galloway	Mary Galloway
THE CHINATOWN DINER	British Columbia	Thomas Affolter	Lawrence Le Lam	Lawrence Le Lam
THE GOOD GUISE	Ontario	Tanya Hoshi	Chrisann Hessing	Chrisann Hessing
THE GREEN WATERWAYS	New Brunswick	Corrina Merasty	Kennlin Barlow	Kennlin Barlow
WHEN MORNING COMES	Ontario	Tamar Bird	Kelly Fyffe-Marshall	Kelly Fyffe-Marshall



BONE CAGE

BONE CAGE, DIRECTED BY **TAYLOR OLSON**, TOOK HOME FOUR AWARDS AT THIS YEAR'S FIN ATLANTIC INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL: BEST ATLANTIC DIRECTOR, BEST ATLANTIC CINEMATOGRAPHER, THE MICHAEL WEIR AWARD FOR BEST ATLANTIC SCREENWRITING AND THE GORDON PARSONS AWARD FOR BEST ATLANTIC FEATURE.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THE TALENT FUND IS LED BY AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF BUSINESS LEADERS, CITY-BUILDERS AND PHILANTHROPISTS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY. TELEFILM IS INDEBTED TO THIS EXTRAORDINARY GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS FOR THEIR GENEROSITY OF TIME, DONATIONS AND LEADERSHIP.

Christine Magee
Chair, Advisory Committee
Co-Founder and Co-Chair Sleep Country (Ontario)

David Aisenstat
President & CEO, Keg Restaurants Ltd. (British Columbia)

John Bitove
CEO, Obelysk Inc. (Ontario)

Mark Dobbin
Founder & President, Killick Capital Inc. (Newfoundland and Labrador)

Dr. Anil Gupta
Medical Director of Clinical Cardiology, Trillium Health Centre (Ontario)

Vincenzo Guzzo
President and CEO Cinemas Guzzo (Quebec)

Carol R. Hill
Director of Communications Harvard Developments Inc. (Saskatchewan)

Sandi Treliving
Philanthropist (British Columbia)

Kimberley Walker
Philanthropist (Ontario)

Nathan Yeung
Lead Client-Side CMO & Marketing Strategist Find Your Audience (British Columbia)

OUR PARTNERS AND DONORS

Principal Partners

Major Donors

- CIBC
- Directors Guild of Canada – Ontario
- Donald K. Johnson
- Jack Gallagher Education Fund
- K.M Hunter Charitable Foundation
- National Bank
- Pinewood Toronto Studios
- Peter and Joanne Brown Foundation
- Power Corporation of Canada
- RBC Foundation
- Richardson Foundation
- Sandi and Jim Treliving
- Sanford and Deborah Riley
- Anonymous

Major gift donors as of March 31, 2021. For the full list of supporters, visit thetalentfund.ca.

TALENT FUND

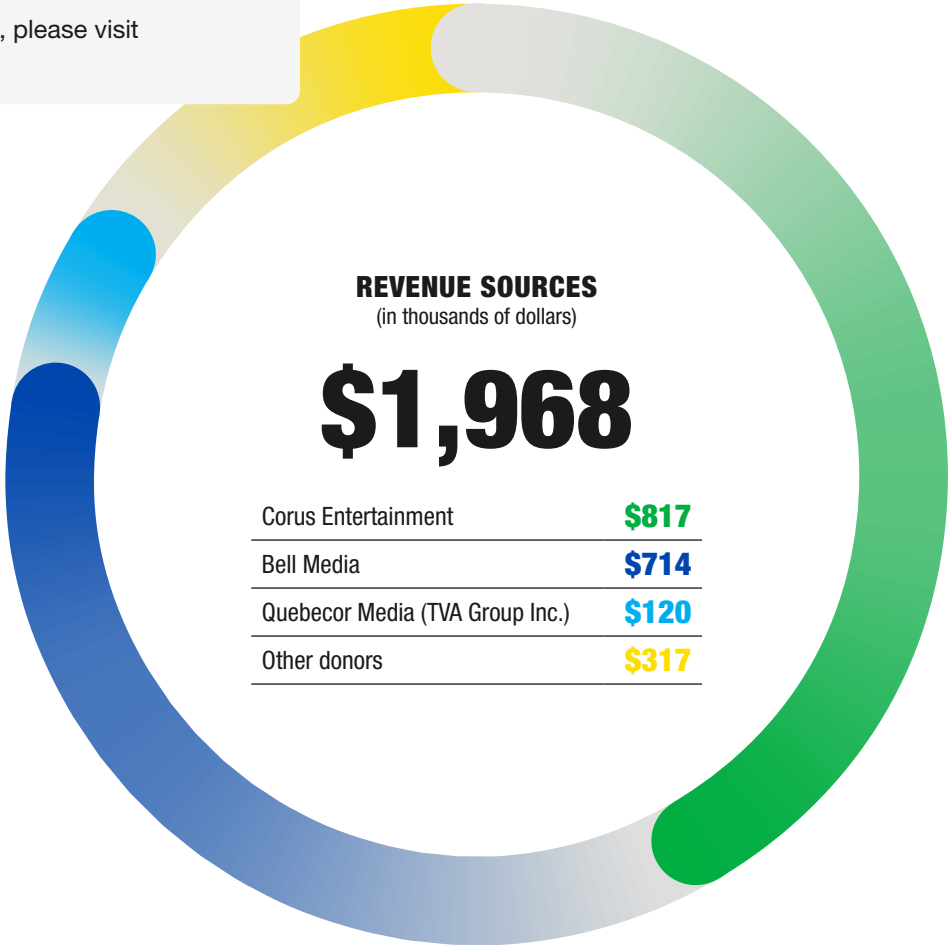
FINANCIAL REVIEW

REVENUES

Through the generosity of its growing family of partners and donors, the Talent Fund raised \$1.968 million:

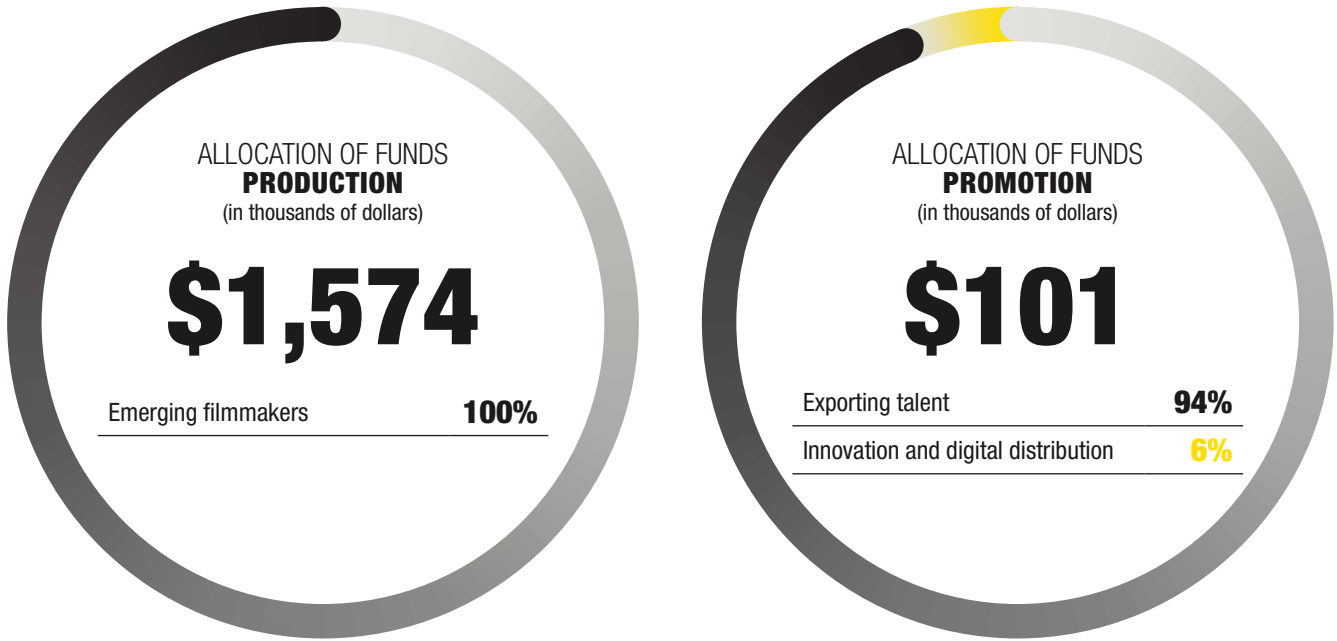
- \$714,000 from Bell Media, \$817,000 from Corus Entertainment and \$120,000 from Quebecor Media (TVA Group Inc.), in accordance with the CRTC tangible benefits and long-term financing agreements
- \$317,000 from philanthropists and corporate partners from across Canada

For a list of donors and partners, please visit thetalentfund.ca.

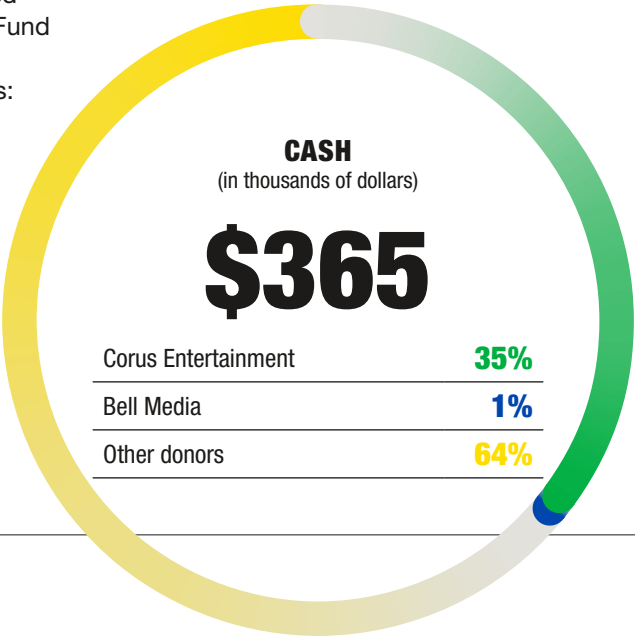


INVESTMENTS

The Talent Fund invested \$1.675 million to support the production and promotion of projects. The Fund financed 58% of the 2020-2021 Talent to Watch program and continued to focus on discoverability activities.



To support previously committed funding obligations, the Talent Fund maintained a balance of nearly \$365,000, distributed as follows:



Fiscal year ended March 31, 2021
The amounts shown in the accompanying tables to the financial statements are expressed in thousands of Canadian dollars unless otherwise indicated.

Talent Fund

The transactions specific to the Talent Fund are shown in the tables below:

	Other donors	Bell Media	Corus Entertainment	TVA Group Inc.	Total 2021	Total 2020
REVENUES						
Donations	317	–	–	–	317	530
Contributions received	–	714	817	120	1,651	1,761
Deferred revenues	–	–	(117)	–	(117)	–
	317	714	700	120	1,851	2,291
ASSISTANCE EXPENSES						
Talent to Watch program	135	714	605	120	1,574	2,081
Promotion program and national and international promotional activities	6	–	95	–	101	245
	141	714	700	120	1,675	2,326
Surplus (deficit) for the year	176	–	–	–	176	(35)
Accumulated surplus, beginning of year	18	–	–	–	18	53
Accumulated surplus, end of year	194	–	–	–	194	18

For the fiscal year ended March 31, 2021, the Corporation incurred \$388,000 in expenses related to business development and promotion of the Fund (\$473,600 for the previous fiscal year). The contributions of Bell Media, Corus Entertainment and TVA Group Inc. are subject to external restrictions.

	Other donors	Bell Media	Corus Entertainment	TVA Group Inc.	Total 2021	Total 2020
DEFERRED REVENUES						
Balance, beginning of year	–	–	–	–	–	–
Contributions received	–	714	817	120	1,651	1,761
Contractual commitments recognized in revenues	–	(714)	(700)	(120)	(1,534)	(1,761)
Balance, end of year	–	–	117	–	117	–
CASH – TALENT FUND						
Balance, beginning of year	320	398	178	–	896	732
Receipts	317	714	817	120	1,968	2,474
Contractual payments under financial assistance programs	(404)	(1,109)	(866)	(120)	(2,499)	(2,310)
Balance, end of year	233	3	129	–	365	896

As at March 31, 2021, the Talent Fund is contractually committed to pay a total amount of \$47,325 (\$878,400 for the previous fiscal year) and has a due from the Consolidated Revenue Fund of \$6,000 (no amount for the previous fiscal year).

TALENTFUND

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CHOICE

TELEFILM.CA     THETALENTFUND.CA

Canada