



News release
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Senior producer and general manager Patricia Phillips leads new firm
Amerimage Productions: a new Amérimage-Spectra subsidiary in Toronto

Montreal, Sept. 23, 2004 – Pierre L. Touchette, president and producer of Amérimage-Spectra (a member of L'Équipe Spectra), is proud to announce the official opening of Toronto subsidiary Amerimage Productions. This new player, dedicated primarily to producing TV documentaries, is led by senior producer and general manager Patricia Phillips. Various projects are already in full production as Amerimage Productions, located at 550 Queen Street East in Toronto, opens its doors to all national and international broadcasters and co-producers wishing to collaborate with a team of professionals who are passionate about their craft.

Amérimage-Spectra is considered one of the leading Canadian producers of television programming and films devoted to the arts. This production niche will remain unchanged, with Amerimage Productions completing the organization's programming catalogue by producing documentaries that involve such diverse subjects as science, history, nature, real life stories and health.



A dynamic, creative force: From Great North Productions to Amerimage Productions

Patricia Phillips, who has more than 20 years' production experience, joined Pierre L. Touchette's team in mid-June following the decision by Alliance Atlantis Entertainment Group in late 2003 decision to dismantle its television-production sectors.

For 14 years beginning in 1987 Ms Phillips worked with co-founder Andy Thomson at Great North Productions, an Edmonton-based TV production house, helping to establish the firm as Canada's top producer of documentaries during that period.

In July 2000, Alliance Atlantis Communications Toronto acquired Great North Productions and founded Factual Production. Ms. Phillips was named senior vice-president, as well as executive producer of a number of major international productions and co-productions.

Ms. Phillips' production credits and the list of broadcasters with whom she has had the opportunity to work during her impressive career include: Behind The Red Door – Elizabeth Arden and Ah gee, forgetting me (History Channel Canada), Acorn The Nature Nut (Animal Planet), Shiver (National Geographic and Life Network Canada), Hitler and I: Reflections on Evil (Global, History Channel Canada), Fresh and Wild (Food Network Canada, BBC and UK Food), Dead Men's Tales II (Discovery Health Canada and Discovery Health U.S.), Pigs On The Run (National Geographic U.S., Discovery Canada, ORF Austria and ZDF Germany).

Ms. Phillips has also demonstrated her extensive co-production experience on such projects as Kimmel Park Riots (with Andy Brice Productions Wales for S4C and History Television) and The Rat Among Us (written by Patricia and co-produced with Heinrich Mayer of Interspot Films for ORF, Discovery Canada and Discovery U.S.) ; with Mayer, she also co-produced Doves and Pigeons. Also, Surviving Extremes and Going to More Extremes (with Keo Productions, U.K. for Channel 4, U.K., National Geographic Int. and Discovery Canada), Inventing the Past (with Windfall U.K. for History Canada, Discovery U.S., BBC), Hitler's Victory (with Lion, U.K. for History Canada, Channel 5, U.K.), Samurai: Behind The Blade (with Bang Productions for National Geographic U.S. and National Geographic Canada).

Many of these productions and co-productions have received awards or nominations from prestigious festivals as the WorldFest Houston, Columbus International Film & Video Festival, Gemini Awards, Hot Docs, New York Festival, and the Banff Rockies etc.

Ms. Phillips' duties also include serving on the Banff Television Festival board of directors, a position she has held from 1997 to 2004.

Amérimage-Spectra: 10 years of passion and television adventures!

2004 has been filled with wonderful events for Amérimage-Spectra. In addition to launching Amerimage Productions in Toronto, the firm is celebrating its 10th anniversary and has completed various filming projects. These include some 20 hours of Festival International de Jazz de Montréal performances featuring Diana Krall, Oscar Peterson & Oliver Jones, Johnny Clegg and The Funk Brothers, and Soleil de minuit, co-produced with Cirque du Soleil. Other productions are underway, with filming set for the fall.

The firm's lengthy list of prestigious awards over the years includes Amelia by Édouard Lock, which features La La La Human Steps and this year won several honours (Le Festival Rose d'Or, the Banff Television Festival, the Golden Prague, etc.), Cirque Orchestra, with Cirque Éloïze (Gemini Awards - 2003 / direction: Pierre Séguin), Contre Vents Contre Marée, presented by Zachary Richard (Prix Historia - 2003 / direction: Jean Bourbonnais), Montréal mène la danse, with performances by O Vertigo, La La La Human Steps, Margie Gillis, the Flak Company, the Sarah Williams Company, Sinha Danse and Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal (Gemini Awards - 2002 / direction: Jocelyn Bamabé and Élizabéth Paradis), RBO The Documentary (Félix ADISQ - 2002 / direction: Louis-Roland Leduc) and Un air de Louisiane (Prix Gémeaux 1999 / direction: Clodine Galipeau). Many Amérimage-Spectra productions have also been nominated for awards, including Montréal en voix (nominated for Prix Gémeaux and Gemini Awards - 2003 / direction: Jocelyn Bamabé), OSQ 100 ans ! (nominated at Le Festival Rose d'Or - 2003 / direction: Jocelyn Bamabé), Ravel : L'enfant et les sortilèges (nominated at Gemini Awards - 2001 / direction: Évelyne Robidas and Simon Christian Vaillancourt) and OSM Branché ! Le violon rouge: film score by François Girard and performed by the Montreal Symphony Orchestra directed by Charles Dutoit (Emmy Awards nominee - 2001 / direction: Jocelyn Bamabé).

On the strength of its many successes, Amérimage-Spectra occupies a choice position in international markets and is recognized at the world level for its know-how and expertise in large-scale television productions. The company's catalogue includes more than 400 hours of recordings of various types (music, dance, circus arts and documentaries). Such programming makes up the majority of productions offered via Spectra International Distribution, which distributes hundreds of hours of programming in no fewer than 90 countries. Thanks to its vast network of contacts, Amérimage-Spectra collaborates on productions with different foreign partners, notably ARTE (France), NHK (Japan), PBS (USA) and ZDF (Germany). In Canada, Amérimage-Spectra regularly works with the CBC, SRC, ARTV, Global, TVA, COOL TV and Musimax networks

Ten years ago, Pierre L. Touchette and his partner Claire Matteau founded Amérimage Communications in Ottawa. The firm closed and the couple relocated to Montreal, where they opened Amérimage-Québec. A few years later, Alain Simard and Luc Châtelain of L'Équipe Spectra teamed with Pierre L. Touchette to launch Amérimage-Spectra. In 2004, Amerimage Productions and Patricia Phillips have now joined this great family of driving forces to meet the challenges represented by important and exciting production projects.

In addition to Amérimage-Spectra and Amerimage Productions, L'Équipe Spectra's film and television division includes three TV production companies: Films Zingaro (headed by Pierre Beaudry), Productions Bleu Blanc Rouge (Suzanne Girard) and Spectra Animation (André A. Bélanger). Sogestalt Télévision Québec (Guy Latraverse) also maintains a close business

partnership with L'Équipe Spectra. Furthermore, through the activities of subsidiary Spectra International Distribution, hundreds of hours of Quebec-produced programming are presented annually on national and foreign networks.

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Source:

Pierre L. Touchette, president and producer, Amérimage-Spectra

Patricia Phillips, senior producer and general manager, Amerimage Productions

Information:

Sarah Déraps, interim communications director, film and television sector,

L'Équipe Spectra (514) 286-2500, ext. 360 sarah.deraps@equipespectra.ca