



**PRESS RELEASE**  
For immediate release

*An Amérimage-Spectra production*  
**The Cross and Bones by Paul Carrière**  
**to air Jan. 24 on CBC Newsworld**

**Montreal, December 20, 2005** – The documentary *The Cross and Bones*, directed by **Paul Carrière** and produced by **Amérimage-Spectra**, will air on the new **CBC Newsworld** program *The Lens* on **Tuesday January 24<sup>th</sup>** at **10pm ET/10pm PT**.

Filmed in Alberta's Drumheller Valley, *The Cross and Bones* tells the story of three groups of people with diametrically opposed convictions and interests – fervent Christians, world-class paleontologists, and 3000 bikers – who come together and reflect upon humankind's destiny. The work raises questions about humanity's strongest beliefs and value systems but never takes sides, leaving viewers to do their own thinking.

*The Cross and Bones'* colourful cast includes a group of amateur actors who stage *The Passion of Christ*, among them a Calgary real-estate agent in the role of Jesus, his wife as the Virgin Mary and an ex-convict who plays Barabas. We also meet a theologian-turned-paleontologist and an entrepreneur who specializes in reconstructing dinosaur fossils and has rediscovered his faith, but is almost bankrupt. Fresh and satirical in its outlook, brimming with delicious irony and subtle humor, *The Cross and Bones* examines everything that separates creationists and evolutionists.

*The Cross and Bones* was enthusiastically received at the **Hot Docs International Documentary Festival** in Toronto, where it had its world premiere April 23. Considered North America's premier documentary film festival, *Hot Docs* selected the Quebec production to lead off the Canadian Spectrum Program. *The Cross and Bones* was also presented at the **Bare Bones Film Festival** in Drumheller, Alberta, at the **Atlantic Film Festival**, and the **Calgary International Film Festival**. In addition, the film has earned an Honourable Mention at the 53rd **Columbus International Film and Video Festival**.

*The Cross and Bones* was produced by **Amérimage-Spectra**, in association with CBC Newsworld and in collaboration with Canal D, The Knowledge Network and SCN. The film's producers are **Lisa Cochrane**, **Pierre L. Touchette** and **Alain Simard** and the executive producer is **Luc Châtelain**. Director **Paul Carrière**, who co-wrote the film with Lisa Cochrane, has directed documentaries, television series and fiction films. Winner of a Genie Award in 1996 for his documentary *Maman et Eve*, Carrière has also directed the short films *The Green*, *Sway* and *Landscaping*. On the television side, he has directed the dramatic series *Naked Josh* and *Les Choix de Sophie*.

*The Cross and Bones* is generously supported by the **Canadian Television Fund** - created by the **Government of Canada and the Canadian Cable Industry** - **CTF: Licence Fee Program** - **Telefilm Canada: Equity Investment Program**, **Quebec - Film and Television Tax Credit** - **Gestion SODEC** and **The Canadian Film or Video Production Tax Credit – Canada**, and **PRIM Media Arts Centre**.

Over the past decade, *Amerimage-Spectra* has established itself as a major presence in international markets. A member of **L'Équipe Spectra** since 1998, the company is recognized internationally for its know-how and expertise in high-profile performing-arts productions. At the latest Gala de l'ADISQ (the Junos' French-language counterpart), Amérimage-Spectra captured two Félix Awards for television programming: in the "Television Program of the Year – Comedy" category for "Le Procès des Bleu Poudre" and the "Television Program of the Year – Song" category for "Paroles et Musique" featuring Ariane Moffatt. Other outstanding Amérimage-Spectra productions include "Amélia," which was honoured at the Chicago TV Awards in addition to taking a Rose d'Or in 2003 and a Gemini Award in 2004, 2003 Gemini winner "Cirque Orchestra" and "Montréal mène la danse," for which the artists of Exaucé/Salt — a creation of choreographer Édouard Lock — won a Gemini in 2002.

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**Sources:** Pierre L. Touchette, President, Amérimage-Spectra  
Lisa Cochrane, Producer, Amérimage-Spectra  
Luc Châtelain, Vice-president, Film and Television Division, L'Équipe Spectra

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**PAUL CARRIERE**  
**Filmography**

Paul Carrière recently completed the feature documentary THE CROSS AND BONES.

A graduate of the 1998 Canadian Film Centre's director's lab, Carrière's filmography includes the short films SWAY, LANDSCAPING and THE GREEN. His documentary MUM'S THE WORD, won the 1996 Genie Award for Best Short Documentary and his portrait of LAURE RIESE won Best Biography at Hot Docs in 1994. Carrière's films have been selected at many international film festivals. The short films THE GREEN and LANDSCAPING were also featured in the Toronto Film Festival Canadian film Showcase; a selection of the best short films from across the country.

For television, Carrière directed the first season of the hit dramatic series NAKED JOSH, broadcasting on Showcase in Canada and the Oxygen network in the US. He directed the last two seasons of LES CHOIX DE SOPHIE (Prix Gémeaux 2003) and for CBC's arts program "Opening Night", he created CREDO with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and also the television adaptation of the contemporary opera BEATRICE CHANCY. At Bravo! he was a segment producer on the series ARTS AND MINDS.

Awards include the 1996 Los Angeles Broadcast Design Award for the opening animation sequence of TVOntario's IMPRINT and Best Architectural Film at the 1994 Paris Festival of Films on Art for his portrait of CARLOS OTT, the Canadian architect who designed the Paris Opera. Carrière's television work was also presented by the Cinémathèque Québécoise in Montréal .

Paul Carrière is now working on the short film À PARTAGER for which he has received grants from both the Canada Council and Québec Arts Council.

## **LISA COCHRANE**

### **Biography**

Halifax-native Lisa Cochrane is a television producer, writer and director. Currently working as a freelance producer and writer for Amérimage-Spectra in Montreal, she is responsible for writing, developing and producing original television programming for one of Quebec's most important cultural players, Equipe Spectra who produce the Montreal International Jazz Festival, among other noteworthy events.

In addition to developing original comedy programs for television at Amérimage-Spectra, Cochrane is also developing, writing and producing social issue documentaries about a variety of subjects, as well as performing arts programs. Currently she is developing an original mock doc comedy special POUTINE COWBOYS with the CBC, a humorous look at the distinct society debate in Canada, where she is both co-writer and producer. MASCOT ACADEMY, another comedy series co-written by Cochrane, is currently at the development stage. Last year Cochrane also developed another comedy series with THE COMEDY NETWORK called THE VAL AND TAL SHOW, which went as far as the script stage.

Cochrane co-wrote and produced THE CROSS AND BONES, an humorous look at the evolution-creationist controversy in Drumheller, Alberta, produced in association with CBC Newsworld. This feature length documentary has been invited to be the opening night film of the Canadian Spectrum series at the Hot Docs International Documentary Festival in Toronto. Recently she completed production on LE PETIT JEAN-PIERRE, LE GRAND PERREAULT, a documentary by Paule Baillargeon about this remarkable Québec choreographer, aired on CBC's "Opening Night". Another documentary, STONE, an innovative portrait of beefcake photographer Alan B. Stone, is slated for production in summer 2005. and wil air on Bravo!, Pride and ARTV.

As producer, writer and director, Cochrane has three documentary films to her credit:

COUNTRY IN A BODY (2001), capturing a cultural exchange tour of contemporary dance between Japan and Canada (Exec produced by Harbourfront Centre, Toronto);

SANCTUM (1996), an hour long documentary about the professional and personal struggle of Toronto dancer Peggy Baker and musician Ahmed Hassan as they face Hassan's declining health due to Multiple Sclerosis (co-produced with Ciné Qua Non Films, Montreal);

EMOTIONAL LOGIC: WILLIAM DOUGLAS TRANSFORMED (1994), an award-winning half hour portrait of Montreal choreographer William Douglas and the impact of AIDS on his life and work (Most promising New Director Award, Atlantic Film Festival, 1994, Halifax).

Cochrane has co-written one feature film script HONEY and currently has another in development, JOHNNY JOHNNY AND THE FATWALKER. She has also worked as a freelance dance critic in the Globe and Mail and was co-founder/publisher/editor of her own dance magazine stepTEXT in Toronto in the early 90s.