



High-impact Uniquely Canadian



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CBC/Radio-Canada continues to make meaningful contributions to Canadian awareness and identity through innovative, nation-binding programming not available anywhere else.

In recent years, CBC/Radio-Canada has produced various Television and Radio programs for broadcast on both our English and French networks. These programs are intended to appeal to all Canadians and to reflect their shared experiences. Our cross-cultural programming allows our networks to pool resources and expertise to produce more high-quality programming, and allows us to utilise our distribution platforms more efficiently to promote exchanges between the linguistic communities and to reach more audiences. As well, it is natural that the public broadcaster of a bilingual country would undertake such programming, and our viewers and listeners have endorsed this point of view through their enthusiastic audience response.

CBC/Radio-Canada has formally embraced the notion of producing and airing more cross-cultural programming on our different media platforms by dedicating a generous budget to such initiatives.

We are proud of the cross-cultural programming that we delivered to Canadians this year. A prime example was the second year of episodes in our landmark documentary series, *Canada: A People's History / Le Canada : Une histoire populaire*. This series

establishes a new model of cooperation between our English and French Television services, and we believe that it also serves as an exemplar for public broadcasting at its best, delivering distinctive, high-quality, high-impact programming. The 17-part series, broadcast over two years, comprises 32 hours of stunning documentary programming produced using entirely digital technology. Audience and critical reactions have been extraordinary, and an astounding 15 million Canadians – nearly half of the population of Canada – watched the series. The home videos and companion book are bestsellers. Nearly 80 per cent of Canadian schools have access to the series' educational materials and the 500-page, fully bilingual website continues to be popular with students and viewers.

In Spring 2002, English Television aired *Trudeau*, a four-hour dramatic series that took a candid look at one of Canada's most remarkable and controversial Prime Ministers. Starring Colm Feore in the lead role, the series showcased an exceptional group of French- and English-speaking actors. Audience figures were very good. The programs attracted an average of 1.9 million viewers. French Television will air *Trudeau* in the 2002-2003 broadcast year.



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1. Michael Ironside, Roy Dupuis, *The Last Chapter / Le Dernier chapitre*, English and French TV;
2. Peter Anderson, *The Overcoat / Le Manteau*, English and French TV;
3. Polly Shannon, Colm Feore, *Trudeau*, English and French TV;
4. *Canada: A People's History / Le Canada : Une histoire populaire*, English and French TV;
5. Deborah Pollitt, Colm Meaney, *Random Passage / Cap Random*, English and French TV;
6. Sonia Rodriguez, Aleksander Antonijevic, *Les Sylphides, Opening Night*, English TV.

The Last Chapter / Le Dernier chapitre is a high-powered dramatisation of the biker wars in Ontario and Quebec. Co-produced by our English and French Television services, this six-hour series was filmed simultaneously in French and English and broadcast on both networks. About 4.7 million Canadians watched at least some part of the first episode of the series on either English Television or French Television.

Random Passage, a tale of survival and love in 19th century Newfoundland, is an Irish-Canadian co-production involving our English and French Television networks and RTE Ireland, CBC/Radio-Canada's Irish national public broadcasting counterpart. Based on the novels of Newfoundland writer Bernice Morgan, this eight-hour mini-series was broadcast over two weeks on English Television, attracting an average audience of 1.2 million across four Sunday and Monday evenings, even opposite the Super Bowl. It was also broadcast on RTE Ireland. *Random Passage* will be shown on French Television in 2002-2003 as *Cap Random*.

The Overcoat / Le manteau, an innovative theatre piece produced by Vancouver Playhouse Theatre, and conceived by Morris Panych based on a Gogol short story, was shown this year on French Television's *Les Beaux Dimanches* and on English Television's *Opening Night*. This wordless production is set to music by Shostakovich performed by Angela Cheng, Jens Lindemann and the CBC Radio Orchestra under Mario Bernardi. A CD of the musical performance was recorded by CBC Records/Les disques SRC and was nominated for a West Coast Music Award.

The close spirit of cooperation seen in previous years between CBC Newsworld and RDI continued to grow this year with the joint commissioning of 10 independent documentaries to be shown in English and French on both networks. The documentary *From Russia for Love*, commissioned by CBC Newsworld, was also presented under the title *De la Russie par amour* on French Television's *Enjeux*, where it received critical acclaim, thus demonstrating the universal appeal of the programs that appear on CBC Newsworld's *The Passionate Eye* and *Rough Cuts*.

CBC Newsworld and RDI also jointly commissioned 22 new episodes of *Culture Shock/Culture-choc*, the only regular program on Canadian television seen simultaneously in English and French Canada. *Culture Shock/Culture-choc* follows the cross-country travels of young video journalists as they explore the different traditions and lifestyles of Canadians.

Our English and French Radio networks also collaborate to bring the best programming to their audiences. This year, *Ideas*, hosted by Paul Kennedy, and *Des idées plein la tête*, hosted by Bernard Derome, co-produced three Radio documentaries with a Montreal freelance producer.

Another joint initiative by our English and French Radio services was *Imagine.ca*, a writer-in-residence project which has become a community outreach, Radio programming and extensive online initiative, featuring two authors, five high schools and a writing project. Funded in part by Canada Council for the Arts, *Imagine.ca* ran for a month in Autumn 2001.

The *CBC/Radio-Canada-En Route Literary Competition* (May 2001-May 2002) was funded by CBC/Radio-Canada, Canada Council for the Arts and *En Route Magazine*. Winning entries were broadcast on our English and French Radio services and printed in *En Route Magazine* every month from February to July 2002.

Radio Two and the Chaîne culturelle each year record concerts for broadcast on both networks. Examples this year were a concert gala at the Canadian Centre for Architecture in Montreal, and the Louis Lortie Beethoven concert series. The networks also collaborate in presenting the results of three major music talent competitions, which we discuss later in this Annual Report.

Radio One devotes two weekly programs to cross-cultural programming to provide a window on French Canada for its listeners. *C'est La Vie*, hosted by Bernard St-Laurent, looks at French-language media, literature, humour and ideas among Francophone Canadians. *À Propos*, hosted by Jim Corcoran, features recordings and discussion about contemporary French music, with special emphasis on the Quebec popular music scene.

