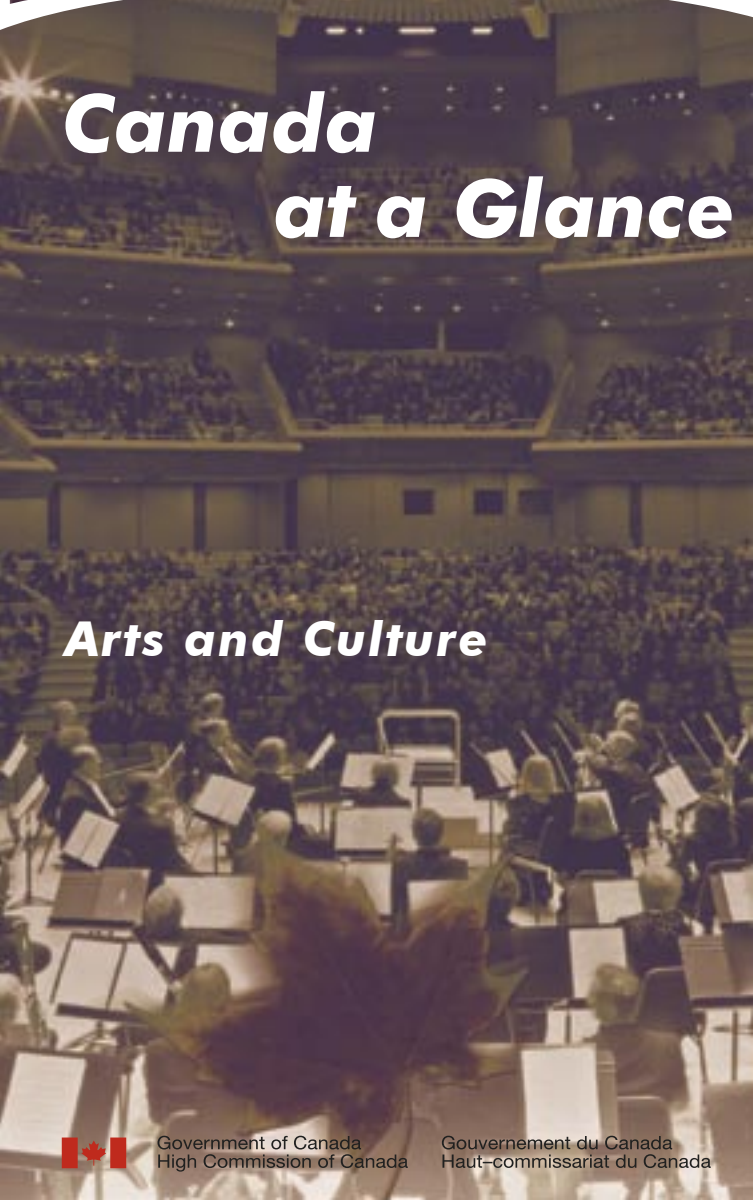




Canada at a Glance

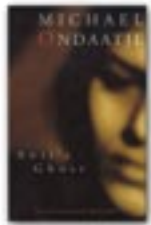
Arts and Culture





Canada has emerged as a cultural powerhouse in the 21st century. Its culture is rich and diverse, drawing on British, French and Aboriginal traditions leavened with the heritage of immigrants who have come to Canada from around the world. In commercial terms, the cultural sector contributes more than \$38 billion to the Canadian economy and employs more than 600,000 people, the majority in written media.

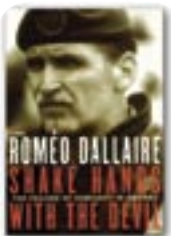
Canadian culture reaches far beyond the country's borders. Canada is the second largest source of international music talent in the world. Two Canadian novelists, **Margaret Atwood** and **Yann Martel**, have won the *Man Booker Prize* in the past five years. And Canada is a major contributor to the world's film-production industry. Surprising, perhaps, given that the country's population is little more than 32 million.



THE WRITTEN WORD

Whether inspired by Canadian landscapes or shaped by the country's values, Canadian authors have made an extraordinary impact on the world.

Long-established writers such as **Margaret Atwood**, **Alice Munro**, **Carol Shields**, **Michael Ondaatje**, **Mordecai Richler**, **Douglas Coupland** and **Rohinton Mistry** have been drawing international attention and accolades for many years, and they are being joined by new talent such as **Yann Martel**, who won the 2002 *Man Booker Prize* for *LIFE OF PI*, and **David Bezmozgis**, whose collection *NATASHA AND OTHER STORIES* was shortlisted for the *Guardian First Book Award* and won the *Commonwealth Writers' Prize, Regional Division, for Best First Book*.



Roméo Dallaire's *SHAKE HANDS WITH THE DEVIL: THE FAILURE OF HUMANITY IN RWANDA* (also an award-winning documentary), **Miriam Toews's** *A COMPLICATED KINDNESS* and **Alice Munro's** collection of short stories *RUNAWAY* were among the big sellers and literary prize winners in 2004.



By the latest estimate, there are more than 22,000 writers working in Canada, producing more than 6,000 new titles annually. In 2002, Canadian books generated almost \$500 million in sales abroad.

MUSIC AND MUSIC MAKERS

Diverse and innovative, Canadian music is making itself heard. Since 1995, the top 21 currently active Canadian artists have sold a combined \$12 billion worth of recordings worldwide. And over the past decade, Canada's top 10 best-selling artists have sold a total of 360 million units around the globe.



Commercial success has translated into an increasing number of gold and platinum certifications in international markets. Between 2001 and 2003, 144 Canadian albums received certifications, and in the United Kingdom alone Canadian artists sold more than 8 million albums between 1995 and 2004.

The approximately 300 Canadian independent labels have a significant part to play in developing Canadian talent, accounting for more than 80 percent of all Canadian releases.

Set against a backdrop of household names and chart-toppers spanning many decades – **Oscar Peterson, Bryan Adams, Leonard Cohen, Joni Mitchell, k.d. lang, Diana Krall** and **Neil Young** – Canada's music industry is blossoming with new talent. Jazz singer **Michael Bubl **, for example, had exceptional chart success in the UK and Australia in 2003 with his self-titled album, while the album *Want Two* has put singer-songwriter **Rufus Wainwright** firmly on the musical map. More than 1,500 new Canadian recordings are produced yearly, with some 84 percent by Canadian-controlled labels. Canadian recordings accounted for 27 percent of domestic sales in 2003, up from 15 percent in 2001, while there is increasing worldwide appreciation for and recognition of Canadian music.



Canada's classical music and opera stars are also internationally renowned. Symphony orchestras from many Canadian cities; the **Canadian Opera Company**; **Angela Hewitt**; **Louis Lortie**; **Marc-André Hamelin**; **Gerald Findley**; **Robert Carsen**; **Ben Heppner**; **Michael Schade**; **James Ehnes**; **Measha Brueggergosman**; **Gillian Keith**; **Kwame Ryan**; **Yves Abel**; **Stephanie Marshall**; **John Relyea**; **Valdine Anderson**; and **Philip Ens** all tour frequently.

Composer **Howard Shore** won last year's Oscar for best musical score and best song for the film *LORD OF THE RINGS: THE RETURN OF THE KING*.

Canada's growing multicultural population has provided the country with an amazing variety of "world" sounds that range from reggae to Chinese classical music, from Cajun to African dance music. Originally from Senegal, the group **Diouf**, whose music is a blend of Senegalese melodies and percussions with a Canadian flavour, has now firmly established itself on the Quebec music scene. Singer/songwriter **Lhasa**, winner of the BBC World Music Awards for the Americas, has brought her mix of North African melodies, percussion and broken-down jazz rhythms to audiences worldwide.

Sales of Canada's Top 10 Selling Artists Around the World since January 1995

	Artist	Worldwide Sales (million units)
1	Celine Dion	150
2	Shania Twain	70
3	Alanis Morissette	45
4	Avril Lavigne	20
5	Sarah McLachlan	19
6	Nickelback	17
7	Diana Krall	12
8	Barenaked Ladies	11
9	Nelly Furtado	6
10	Sum 41	5
10	Our Lady Peace	5

Source: *Applaud!* Vol. 2, No. 11 (July/August 2004)



AT THE MOVIES

Six decades after the **National Film Board** was established, and three decades after the birth of the Canadian Film Development Corporation – now **Telefilm Canada** – audiences around the world continue to be captivated by Canadian films.

Today, the Canadian film industry supports some 34,000 jobs and contributes almost \$5 billion to the Canadian economy, \$2 billion of which is generated by independent production companies.

Canadian French-language film production is going from strength to strength, gaining growing international acclaim on top of its immense domestic success. Its most notable star is **Denys Arcand**, who had a recent worldwide hit with *LES INVASIONS BARBARES* (*THE BARBARIAN INVASIONS*), a poignant tale about a dying history professor

and a sequel to his earlier *LE DÉCLIN DE L'EMPIRE AMÉRICAIN* (*THE DECLINE OF THE AMERICAN EMPIRE*). In addition to being nominated for over 40 awards in Canada and abroad, the film picked up the 2004 Oscar for Best Foreign-Language Film and the 2003 Cannes Best Screenplay Award, as well as the Best Actress prize for **Marie-Josée Croze**.

While Canada has always had a strong documentary tradition, more documentaries are now shown theatrically rather than just on television. The past two years have seen the rise of Canadian documentaries shown in cinemas internationally, with *THE CORPORATION* taking centre-stage as a worldwide box-office hit and winner of 24 international awards – including the 2004 Sundance Audience Award. In 2005, Canada took home the Sundance Audience Award for the second year in a row with *SHAKE HANDS WITH THE DEVIL: THE JOURNEY OF ROMÉO DALLAIRE*, a gripping documentary directed by **Peter Raymont** about Lieutenant-General **Roméo Dallaire**'s thwarted efforts to stop the genocide in Rwanda. Multi-award-winning *HARDWOOD*, which documents



(CP/AP/Laura Rauchi)



a personal journey by director **Hubert Davis**, the son of former Harlem Globetrotter **Mel Davis**, received a 2005 Oscar nomination for Best Documentary (Short Subject).

CENTRE STAGE

In Canada, theatregoers can expect everything from the classics to contemporary to cutting-edge. A devoted and ever-growing audience attends the Stratford and Shaw festivals, while the **Théâtre du Nouveau Monde** and the **High Performance Rodeo** theatre have a growing following. Small theatres and fringe festivals abound in Canada.



The **Cirque du Soleil** is probably Canada's best-known export in the performing arts world. For 20 years, it has been transforming the concept of the circus, creating increasingly magical and sophisticated shows for audiences worldwide.

Canada's strong fringe movement reflects the popularity of home-grown theatre, and Canada now has more fringe festivals per capita than any other country in the world. The first and largest in Canada is the **Edmonton Fringe Festival**, established in 1982. As playwrights succeed in Canada, they also gain acclaim abroad.

Robert Lepage's *DARK SIDE OF THE MOON*, **François Girard's** *NOVECENTO*, and **Ted Dykstra's** and **Richard Greenblatt's** *2 PIANOS, 4 HANDS* have packed theatres in New York, London, Birmingham and Edinburgh.

Canada also has a particularly rich tradition in theatre for young audiences. Every year, new productions by groups like **Green Thumb Theatre**, **Théâtre le Clou**, **Mermaid Theatre** and many others tour throughout Canada and abroad.



(Cirque du Soleil)



Canada has over 100 professional ballet, contemporary and experimental dance troupes that invigorate the country's arts scene. **The National Ballet of Canada** and **Royal Winnipeg Ballet** are fine examples of classical ballet troupes that have earned critical acclaim on their tours to Europe in recent years. Other well-known troupes include **les Ballets Jazz de Montréal**, **Holy Body Tattoo**, **O Vertigo**, **Marie Chouinard** and **La La La Human Steps**, which have received rave reviews in Canada and around the world. Native and Inuit dance groups, such as the **Northern Shadow Dancers** and the **Inuit Cultural Performers**, have also brought Canadian dance to the global community.

(Corbis)


ART WORKS

Canadian art reflects the traditions of First Nations and Inuit cultures as well as the mix of cultures brought to Canada by successive generations of immigrants. The works of Aboriginal artists such as **Maxine Noel**, **Bill Reid**, **Norman Tait**, **Alex Javier** and **Georges Littlechild** are featured in mainstream galleries throughout Canada.



Artists who recorded the country's early history have become internationally renowned and include **Cornelius Krieghoff**, **Louis-Philippe Hébert**, **John O'Brien** and **Jeanne LeBer**. Later in the early to mid-20th century came the famous **Group of Seven** – epitomised by **Tom Thomson** and **A.Y. Jackson** – artists who brought Canada's stark and beautiful landscapes to all Canadians and the world at large.

While the more recent works of **Jean-Paul Riopelle**, **Jeff Wall**, **Betty Goodwin**, **Jack Bush**, **Jana Sterbak**, **Rodney Graham**, **Janet Cardiff**, **David Rokeby** and **Brian Jungen** tend to represent a modern perception of Canada, the past three decades have been characterised by a stimulating spirit of questioning. Added to this are the new communication technologies that have opened up other channels of artistic expression.



Canada's contemporary applied arts and design – seen through fashion, furniture, architecture and interior design – are now recognised internationally and can be seen in shops, trade fairs and galleries around the world.

BENDING REALITY THROUGH MULTIMEDIA

If you've been to the movies recently, you've probably seen Canadian multimedia technology at work. Maybe you were awed by *GLADIATOR* and *TITANIC*, dazzled by *STAR WARS* and *THE LORD OF THE RINGS*, or thrilled by the dexterity of Keanu Reeves and company in *THE MATRIX RELOADED*. Canada is now a leader in the special-effects and 3D animation software market, with globally renowned companies such as **Discreet**, **Softimage** and **Alias**.

Canadians have long been recognised for their expertise in animation, and this tradition continues: in 2005, director **Chris Landreth** joined the list of Canadian animation award winners, taking the Oscar for best animated short film with *RYAN*. In this film, Landreth employs a unique fusion of hand-drawn and 3D computer-animated work to tell the story of Canadian animation pioneer **Ryan Larkin**.

Canada has world leaders in every corner of the new media technology market, with particular success stories in web services and business and educational applications. Canadian companies are pioneers in the computer games industry: *STAR WARS: KNIGHTS OF THE OLD REPUBLIC*, the award-winning game from LucasArts, was a product of Canada's **BioWare**, one of the fastest growing companies in this market. And Canadians have helped shape some of the great icons of popular culture today, from *RUGRATS* to *THE SIMPSONS*.

“Could we ever know each other in the slightest without the arts”

GABRIELLE ROY

(20th-century French-Canadian novelist,
winner of three Governor General's awards)

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