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## FILMS BY YOUNG CANADIANS TO BE SCREENED AT CANADA'S EMBASSY IN BERLIN

*In April 2005, Canada will officially open a new building designed to house Canada's Embassy in Berlin, Germany. Located in the heart of the city, the Embassy has been designed and built to reflect Germany's importance to Canada as a G8 partner and a central player in the European Union.*

Six prize-winning short films by young Canadian filmmakers will be screened in the Northwest Passage of Canada's new Embassy in Berlin.

In 2004, the Embassy launched a competition inviting filmmakers from film schools and collectives across Canada to submit works on the theme of "Canada: The Innovation Nation." More than 100 entries were received, from which three top prizes and three honourable mentions were selected by an international jury. All winners received cash prizes, and their films will be shown in rotation on one of three plasma screens located in the Embassy's Northwest Passage, offering a view on Canada to the thousands of pedestrians traversing the public area each year.

Following are brief descriptions of the winning films and filmmakers.

**FIRST PRIZE:           BRIAN JOSEPH DAVIS**  
**TITLE:                    "ARRIVAL"**

"Arrival" is a formalist exercise in trucks, light and night on Ontario's Highway 401. Brian Joseph Davis gathered three hours of footage of lights and vehicles on one of North America's most travelled roads in. The film captures the ceaseless movement on that great tar ribbon for a model of future travel. With this film, Brian Joseph Davis wanted to pay tribute to both Canada's national highway and Germany's Autobahn.

*Brian Joseph Davis was born in 1975 in Kent County, Ontario, and now lives in Toronto. A video artist and writer, he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Windsor in 1996, and now works in the media of video and photography.*

*3:10 minutes; colour, sound; genre: experimental; 2003*

**SECOND PRIZE: KARINA GRIFFITH, CHRIS IKONOMOPOULOS**  
**TITLE: "CONFESSIONS"**

"Confessions" is a video series that asks Canadians to disclose their intimate secrets in front of the camera. Two intrepid videographers on the streets of Ottawa ask people to confess their lies, mistakes, losses and finds. The result is a humorous, honest and surprising portrait of Canadians unburdening themselves in order to share their experience with the world.

*Karina Griffith, born in Toronto, is a film producer who received a Bachelor of Journalism degree at Carleton University, Ottawa. She was invited as a producer to the prestigious Berlinale Talent Campus in 2005, and nominated for the Berlin Today Award.*

*Chris Ikonomopoulos is a sought-after sound technician and composer who has directed several short films. This is the first joint project for Karina and Chris.  
10 minutes; colour, sound; genre: documentary; 2001*

**THIRD PRIZE: CORYN KEMPSTER**  
**TITLE: "MOTION STUDIES #5 (QUEEN STREET WEST)"**

Toronto's Queen Street West scrolls by as never seen before in this film; the buildings undulate and pedestrians melt. In one moment, a red ribbon serendipitously plays across the screen, slowly revealing itself to be the Canadian flag, while later the CN Tower rolls by in the distance.

*Coryn Kempster was born in 1974 in Brantford, Ontario. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree with High Distinction in Architecture and Visual Studies at the University of Toronto in 2003. She is currently a Presidential Scholar in the Master of Architecture Program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Massachusetts.*

*10 minutes; colour, sound; genre: experimental; 2003*

**HONOURABLE MENTION: BRUCE ALCOCK**  
**TITLE: "WRONG NUMBER PHONE MESSAGE"**

Bruce Alcock could not believe a message he received two years ago: a total stranger, yelling at a woman named Sarah. He tried to imagine who the speaker was and came up with the idea of representing the speaker in multiple ways: paint on glass, treated photocopies on acetate, carvings, papier mâché, wax resist paintings, then lip synching to the message. In stop-motion animation using junk, lumber, leaves, berries and plaid, the film depicts who the stranger is and how he lives, building the speaker's worlds around him. The result is a "cacophony of images and sounds."

*Bruce Alcock was born in Newfoundland. He apprenticed in Barcelona with animator Dirk van de Vondel and continues to develop an all-media approach to productions like live action, drawings, photo animation or film scratching.*

*1:43 minutes; 35 mm; colour, sound; genre: animation; 2003*

**HONOURABLE MENTION: DAN SOKOLOWSKI**  
**TITLE: "LIGHTYEAR"**

"Lightyear" is an animated "trip around the sun" for which still images of the sun were taken over a one-year period (from 45° 1' N, 75° 38' W 2001 A.D.). The images come to life by a succession of fast switches between them and emerging abstract paintings of the image.

*Dan Sokolowski lives in Kemptville, Ontario, and is a graduate of the Fine Arts program of the University of Ottawa. He has produced 12 short films, which have been shown at numerous international film festivals.*

*3 minutes; 16 mm; colour; genre: experimental, animation; 2003*

**HONOURABLE MENTION: WILL KWAN**  
**TITLE: "DON'T TOE THE LINE, OR TOE YOUR OWN LINE"**

Two hopscotch outlines are stencilled in spray-paint between the pedestrian crosswalk boundaries at a busy Toronto intersection. The action is performed without permission one morning in the winter of 2002. Every so often, a passer-by who encounters the intervention will respond intuitively, emotionally, playfully, and creatively. Some people cross as they should between those lines; others gamely attempt to hop the squares.

*Will Kwan, born in 1978 in Hong Kong, is a Canadian performance and media artist and writer based in New York. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Toronto in 2002 and a Master of Fine Arts degree from Columbia University in New York in 2004. Kwan describes his public "interventions" as performance art or "social sculpture" and has presented his projects internationally.*

*5 minutes; colour, sound; genre: experimental; 2002*

Date: April 2005

*Contact:*  
Media Relations Division  
Foreign Affairs Canada  
Tel. (613) 995-1874