

**Jean-Marc (JMD) Duchesne**

Director (ARRQ)
Director of Photography (AQTIS)
Photographer (FPJQ)

Web : www.jmdfilm.com

Address : 255 (#104), rue Simard,
Saint-Lambert (Québec) J4S 1W8

Telephone : (514) 236-3366

E-mail : jmdfilm@yahoo.ca

I was born and raised in Las Vegas, Nevada but spent my adolescent years in Montreal, (Canada) learning the french language and culture. In the early 80's, I attended the University of California in Brentwood (UCLA) to study Film Production and to specialize in Cinematography. In 1986, I returned to Quebec and accepted a position as Director for the newly formed television network TQS. Three years later, I returned, yet again, to Hollywood to work as Associate Producer for The Walt Disney Studios. Five feature fiction films later, I decided that the documentary genre was what I truly favored. So, I formed a production company (JMD Productions inc.) and based myself in Montreal to be with my family.

Striving to produce humanitarian films which will enrich our Western intellect, I have so far travelled with my cameras from the Far East to Central Asia, North Africa, across the entire 50 states and north to the Polar Ice Cap. My documentaries and documentary series have examined such topics as The Plight of Tibetans in Exile, Nepalese Living in a Civil War, China's Changing Economy, Peace efforts in Afghanistan, Freedom of the Press in Cameroon, The Eskimos of Nunavut and The Portuguese Wine Families of the Douro Valley. Also, meeting such historical figures as His Holiness the 14th Dalai-Lama, the napalm girl : Kim Phuk, Pope Benoit XVI, 1968 Olympic Gold Medal Sprinter : Tommy Smith and Activist & ex-California Senator : Tom Hayden.

Each time I focus my lens on a new face, I realize that behind each pair of eyes there is that same desire, as I, to understand life and the world we live in. Today, even more so, I wish to produce and document projects showcasing different places and new faces. My objective is to present, explain and comprehend our planet by creating intelligent quality television.

WORK EXPERIENCE

TELEVISION

2006 Afghanistan : Dammed Opium (1 x 25 min, FRENCH)

In 2006 the poppy cultivation in Afghanistan was at a record high, encouraged by the Taliban, hungry for narco-dollars to finance their dirty war in a country mined for the coalition soldiers. Journalist Simon Thibault, director and DOP Jean-Marc Duchesne explore the country, beginning in the north in the province of Badakshan to better understand the farmers for whom the production of opium represents their only means of subsistence. In the south, With the rise of violence, the majority of the humanitarian workers packed their bags and left. Today, the challenge of development falls mainly upon the soldiers, who must at the same time fight a war while trying to gain the confidence of the local populations.

2003 to 2006 Points chauds : (Quebec Public TV / FRENCH, 78 x 51 min)(3 seasons)

Literally translated as 'Hot Zones' this news and documentary series focusing upon themes dealing with conflict zones, famous political figures and world scale issues. Principally examining our planet from a geopolitical and historical perspective. As Senior Producer/Director and DP, JMD was responsible for the on-the-field reports (travelling during the summer and winter breaks), preparing the backgrounders, graphics and directing the weekly live-to-tape telecasts. Subject titles included : USA ; At War With the World, Latin America ; Ahead Left, Women and Poverty, Haiti ; No Way Out, Japan Awakes, Drugs ; A Lost War ?, Sri Lanka Between War and Humanitarian Efforts, Bird Flu ; Are We Ready ?, Kosovo ; The Ghost of Ex-Yugoslavia, Is Islam Modern ?

2002 The Black Box (ENGLISH/FRENCH, 26 x 27 min.)

Television has often been accused of providing only fleeting moments, when in fact it has served as the 'black box' of our history. The Rodney King beating, JFK shooting, Tiananmen Square, Berlin Wall, Rabin-Arafat handshake or Man's first step on the moon were all caught on camera and shown for all to see, never to be forgotten. None of these moments would have become etched in our memory without television, because it enabled them to enter into history with such great impact. What's behind these images ? How were they caught on tape ? What exactly happened ? The Black Box is the series which investigates the story behind the footage. (Co-director and DP, and winner of numerous awards and critical acclaim).

2001 Les prix du Québec (FRENCH, 6 x 30 min.)

The most prestigious award attributed by the Government of Quebec in all fields of culture and science. A tribute to individuals who have stood out by their creative or innovative spirit and whose work has contributed to the influence of Québec around the world and to the evolution of society in their respective fields. An intimate series filmed and interviewed by JMD.

2002 Pleins gaz (FRENCH, 13 x 26 min.)

A documentary series about the automobile of the past, present and future. Formula 3 racing champion and Journalist, Bertrand Godin and Director/DP, JMD illustrate through the use of animation, archival footage and original material the impact the car has had upon our lives. Also exploring such themes as safety, racing, technology and design.

2005 Cameroon : Reporters with Borders (FRENCH, 27 min.)

A sponsorship scandal in Africa? In Canada, this incident involved the fall of the government. So why in Africa, would it not even deserve a headline in the newspapers ? Because corruption is practised on a casual basis, daily and throughout all the levels of government, from the humble civil servant to the most powerful minister. In consequence, this corruption has a devastating effect on the development of Africa from all points of view, economic to democratic. African/Canadian Journalist, François Bugingo and Film-maker, JMD examine the issue of corruption in a documentary about the non-freedom of the press in Cameroon.

2005 Nepal : entre Mao et le roi (FRENCH, 50 min.)

Nepal : Between Mao and the King, is a documentary about present-day Nepal and its population struggling to survive in a civil war between Maoist rebels and the King's army. But, even if the media are prohibited to enter Nepal, Tibetan journalist Sonam Dekhang and the Film-maker JMD crossed the border by foot at Saunali and entered Nepal illegally to bring back images of the Nepalese and of their daily lives, while slowly making their way towards the capital Kathmandu in this documentary road movie.

2004 Dalai-Lama : Behind the Smile (MULTILINGUAL, 52 min.)

This documentary goes behind the Dalai Lama's appeasing and reassuring smile to explore and uncover the machine that keeps the dream alive and the impatience of the new generation. Behind the beatific smile of the Dalai Lama, spiritual leader of the Tibetan people and 14th in the succession of Lama Reincarnations, lies a carefully calculated machine. Journalist, François Bugingo and Director/DP, JMD offer a peek behind the comforting curtain that has come to symbolize the Dalai Lama and the long road his Tibetan people have traveled. Little is known of the commercial impulsion that surrounds the Dalai Lama, nor of the atrocities and mutilations that have befallen his own people, nor of his own political agenda. In an exclusive interview, the Dalai Lama speaks frankly on these issues for the first time.

2003 Visite libre (FRENCH, 13 x 26 min.)

Devoted to the architecture of Quebec's old and modern houses. Architect Philippe Lupien visits patrimonial residences of a given region of Quebec and takes us to meet those who live in them.(Director/DP).

2002 Jeux de société (FRENCH, 3 x 47 min.)

A documentary series focusing upon the social questions of our time. Producer, JMD examines 3 issues in this series: Combatting Stress, Humour and Animal Rights.

1999 to 2002 Les 400 coûts (FRENCH, 52 x 50 min.) (2 seasons)

A News Magazine on recent consumer products. With its corrosive spirit and its critical commentaries it examines our behaviors towards consumerism. (Director/DP, in charge of the show's design, on-the-field reports and including weekly wine reports from France, Portugal and California).

1998 to 2000 Les règles du jeu (FRENCH, 52 x 51 min.) (2 seasons)

Literally translated as 'The Rules of the Game,' this ocumentary series aims at better understanding important events in the fields of politics, economics, social and cultural issues. Some of the topics examined were Air travel, The Arctic, Wine production, Immigration, Hydro Electricity, Our Neighbors South and Amateur Sports, just to name a few. (Director).

1999 Sommet de la Francophonie (FRENCH, 2 x 6 min.)

Two portraits of young francophones living in Poland and in the State of Louisiana. (Director/DP).

1999 Le pin de vie (FRENCH, 1 x 55 min.)

Some doctors have been skeptical as to whether Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS) exists as a real disease or is it "all in the mind". A documentary which exposes the disease, the people affected and how science is searching for remedies. (Writer/Director & DP).

1996 Le fantôme du Forum (FRENCH, 2 x 60 min.)

A docu-drama series about the history of the Montreal Forum. Scheduled for demolition, this historic venue has been home to The Canadians hockey team, a concert hall, a fighting arena, a circus ring and so much more. Legend says that a ghost lives here. Manifesting himself he takes us along an historical journey and wonders where he will go ?

1996 Simplement la vie (FRENCH, 3 x 15 min.)

'Simply Life'. A refreshing series which examines issues that touch us all. Ordinary people in everyday situations. Filmed without commentary. A time capsule in its simplest form. (Writer/Director and DP).

1996 Surprise sur prise (10th season)

1994 Quatre saisons de cinéma (FRENCH, 78 min.)

1992 Festival juste pour rire (FRENCH, Gala Events)

1990 NEWS at 5 (ENGLISH, KUTV-NBC)

1989 Le Grand Journal (FRENCH, CFJP-TQS)

1988 Un coin de chez nous (26 x 60 min.)

REGULAR POSITIONS

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1998 to 2006 WRITER/DIRECTOR & DESIGN DIRECTOR (Télé-Québec)
Programming, Commercials, Openings & Documentary cutting

1992 to 1994 SENIOR WRITER/DIRECTOR (TQS)
Programming, promotions & 4 network campaigns.

1990 to 1992 ASSOCIATE PRODUCER (Walt Disney Studios)
Honey, I Blew Up the Kid, Encino Man, Sister Act, Cool Runnings, Aspen Extreme.

1986 to 1989 WRITER/DIRECTOR (TQS) Promotion and Commercial Production.

COMMERCIALS & CORPORATE VIDEOS

2006 24 heures de science

2003 Office des personnes handicapés du Québec

2002 Ministère des régions, Mouton noir TQS, MAPAC, Canadian Tire, Pom, Zone 3 Démo.

2001 Unibroue, Bowes bière, Casal Domingo

2000 DJ Trotters, La Bolduc, Mondial du théâtre UNESCO, Le lait, Notre Dame de Paris, Unibroue

1999 Canoë, Croteau, Spectacle aérien du Canada, Bell Sympatico, Humpty Dumpty, Le vent du succès
Télé-Québec

1998 Suzuki, Shell, Le journal de Montréal / F-I, LaPresse défi F-I, Salomon, Netstar, Mario et moi :
Télé-Québec, Barker : RDS, Forces armées canadiennes

1997 Minolta, Shell, Télémedias, Ministère de la défense du Canada

1996 Rhône-Polenc

1995 Campagne automne TQS

1986-94 Ford et Mercury du Québec, Circuit Mercury, Greich & Scaff, André Lalonde sports, Pole-Lite,
Government of Canada, Government of Québec.

AWARDS

2003 *The Black Box*: Prix Gémeaux, Best Directing in a Documentary Series

1992 *TQS Fall Campaign* : Can-Pro, Best Campaign (market A)

1988 *Wheel of Fortune*: Promax, Gold Showcase Award

1983 *A Little Freedom Gained* : Best Film, International Short Film Festival Montreal

RELATED ACTIVITIES

Photography : exposés include : Afghanistan, India, Nepal and Love

Trekking and climbing : Pacific Crest Trail, Adirondack Trail, Rockies, Himalayas and Denali

Teaching : film production, cinematography and photography.

Meditation.