



May 18, 2010 — New Denver, BC (For Immediate Release)

2010 Valhalla Film School offers 2-day Animation Film workshop exploring the Japanese Canadian internment

Aspiring filmmakers from across the region are offered a rare and wonderful opportunity to participate in archiving local history. Interested adults will learn new skills and create media in a two-day Animation and Digital Storytelling Workshop on Friday, June 4th and Saturday, June 5th in New Denver. No previous experience is required, but experienced filmmakers are invited to join in!

Led by two dynamic and talented Canadian filmmakers, Catrina Longmuir and Martin Rose, adults are invited to create a short digital story or animation piece based on the history or experience of the Japanese Canadian internment in New Denver.

Film School students will learn a variety of animation techniques including cut-out drawings, and stopmotion of paintings, drawings or still photographs. They may also create digital stories with narration, live action, short interviews, and sound or music. Production tools such as iStopmotion, iMovie and digital sound recordings are covered in the course.

Catrina Longmuir has been an Associate Producer with the National Film Board of Canada, and now works as an independent producer and media artist. She produces *Our World*, an initiative with aboriginal youth living in remote First Nations communities. Longmuir, who is Japanese Canadian, is a great fit as a mentor for this year's Valhalla Film School both because of her personal background and her talents in filmmaking.

Martin Rose works an Associate Professor in Animation at Emily Carr University of Art & Design and has been an independent animation filmmaker in Vancouver for two decades. Martin Rose has contributed extensively to auteur animation projects at the National Film Board. As a producer, he was involved with *How People Got Fire*, *The Trembling Veil of*

Bones, and *Animate Everything*. Rose directed the 1994 award-winning animation film, *Trawna to Belvul*. His experience as a teacher and filmmaker will add immense depth to the workshop.

Rose and Longmuir join award-winning documentary cinematographer and director, Mo Simpson. Simpson is mentoring Lucerne high school film students who are also working on the theme of the Japanese internment.

On Sunday, June 6th at 7 pm, both the high school students' short documentary films, and the adult Film School animation films will be showcased at the Bosun Hall. Audiences will also see works by the VFS instructors: animations by Rose, a digital storytelling film by Longmuir, and a short documentary film by Mo Simpson.

The cost of the adult workshop is \$50.00 - an amazing value for the two days. "We wanted to make filmmaking affordable for locals so that anyone interested in film will have a chance to participate", says VFS Program Director, Terry Taylor. Support from Recreation Commission #6 and ArtsStarts Artists in Residence program have helped immensely to make filmmaking accessible for all. Valhalla Film School 2010 is co-sponsored by the Valhalla Fine Arts Society, the New Denver Kyowakai Society and Recreation Commission #6.

May 31st is the registration deadline - fast approaching, so register soon! The VFS Animation Workshop will be held at Lucerne School, 604 – 7th Avenue in New Denver.

For program details or to download a registration form, visit www.valhallafinearts.org/vfs or email vfs@valhallafinearts.org.

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About the Valhalla Film School

The Valhalla Film School (VFS) is celebrating its 4th year in providing high quality film programs for youths and adults as part of the Valhalla Fine Arts Society programming. For four years, VFS has brought in many talented filmmakers from across Canada to mentor aspiring filmmakers in the Kootenays. The Valhalla Film Festival or screenings showcase the film students' final projects as well as highly-acclaimed films by their instructors.

About the Valhalla Fine Arts Society

The Valhalla Fine Arts Society (VFAS) is a registered non-profit organization that

offers instructional opportunities in film-making, theatre arts and music for children and adults. Intensive programs are led by professional and recognized leaders in a non-competitive and family-oriented environment.