



May 29, 2010 — New Denver, BC (For Immediate Release)

## 2010 VALHALLA FILM FESTIVAL FEATURES LOCAL TALENT, LOCAL HISTORY AND A PROJECT GOING VIRAL!

Oh my! The Valhalla Film School (VFS) in partnership with the New Denver Kyowakai Society invites you to a June 6 premiere – a **Film Screening** - at the historic Bosun Hall in New Denver. Come watch 10 short Lucerne School student films, pieces created by adults in the June 4 and 5 Animation/Digital Storytelling Film School, and award-winning professional films too.

Youth and adult voices will “Tell the Story of the Nikkei”, capturing the experience of the Japanese Canadian internment in New Denver. This gala event starts at 7 pm on June 6<sup>th</sup>, and also features work by the three award-winning filmmakers who have mentored the youth and adults. Short films by documentary filmmaker, Moira Simpson, digital storyteller and media artist, Catrina Longmuir, and animator, Martin Rose are also on the program. What a feast of film!

Since April, students from Lucerne School in New Denver have studied the Japanese internment, visited the Nikkei Centre, interviewed local elders, and reflected on their learning about the history of their own community. With the mentorship of award-winning documentary filmmaker, Moira Simpson, and Japanese Canadian producer and digital media artist, Catrina Longmuir, the 10 student film shorts they have created will inspire you.

Continuing on the theme of telling the story of the internment with fresh voices, adult students will participate in a 2-day Animation/Digital Storytelling Film School on June 4 and 5. There are still a couple of spaces left for interested adults to join award-winning animator and Emily Carr professor, Martin Rose, along with Longmuir, to create short pieces of animation and digital storytelling. Register at [www.valhallafinearts.org/vfs](http://www.valhallafinearts.org/vfs) to be a part of this exciting and very affordable film workshop. These adult

films produced at the Film School will also be showcased at the June 6<sup>th</sup> film screening.

Finally, audiences will also be treated three brilliant professional films: *Kosovo: Fragile Peace* by Simpson, *Our World* by Catrina Longmuir and *Trawna tuh Belvul* by Martin Rose.

This project has already gained a lot of attention across BC and Canada. The student films will be featured on two national websites: [www.citizenshift.ca](http://www.citizenshift.ca) and [www.thenhier.ca](http://www.thenhier.ca). ArtsStarts *Artists in Residence* program provided initial funding for the student film project, and has asked to feature the student films on their Gallery website. Interviews of the Japanese Canadian elders and the student work will be added to the collection of the *Nikkei Centre* in New Denver, this year being honoured as a National Historic Site, and the *Japanese Canadian National Museum* in Burnaby has expressed interest in having both the student films and the elder film as part of their exhibits. Likewise, post-secondary and public school educators were enthusiastic and keen to have access to the films - five of the student works were shown at a UBC conference on May 15<sup>th</sup>. Funding to produce a 20 – 25 minute documentary film telling this important story of discrimination and resilience with the aim that it never happen again, is coalescing.

We invite you to join us June 6<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at the Bosun. Admission is by donation. The experience will be unforgettable.

For more information, visit [www.valhallafinearts.org/vfs](http://www.valhallafinearts.org/vfs).

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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.