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Executive Director of BravoFact

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CTV Television's Bravo!FACT (Foundation to Assist Canadian Talent) was created when Bravo! was launched in 1995. Bravo!FACT has awarded 13 million dollars across Canada towards the production of over 1200 shorts (six minutes and under).

Bravo!FACT has grown considerably over the past decade and is now the largest funder of short films and videos in Canada. In addition to the grants, Bravo!FACT provides exposure through broadcasts and screenings. The executive director of Bravo!FACT programmes a weekly half-hour show of Bravo!FACT shorts (including intros by filmmakers) which airs in prime-time on Bravo! and four A-Channels. Screenings are organized locally, nationally, and internationally.

The shorts are well-received at festivals. The Toronto International Film Festival, for example, programmed seven Bravo!FACT-funded shorts (out of a total of 40) at the 2007 edition of their festival, and eleven (out of a total of 42) at their 2006 festival. Bravo!FACT-funded shorts have been honoured with awards and screenings at other prestigious festivals such as Cannes, Sundance, the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) and the Lincoln Center's Film Society. Grants provided by Bravo!FACT have launched the careers of filmmakers, DOPs, editors and on-screen talent.

The animated short *I Met the Walrus* is the first Bravo!FACT-funded short to be nominated for an Academy Award® for Best Animated Short Film. Featuring exclusive interview footage with John Lennon that producer Jerry Levitan taped when he was just 14 years old, *I Met the Walrus* has screened at festivals worldwide, winning 11 awards.

Receiving a Bravo!FACT grant has become a very competitive process. Applications are received four times a year; the executive director vets the applications. Appropriate proposals are read and voted on by the Bravo!FACT jury chaired by entertainment lawyer Michael Levine (other members of the board include the Vice President and General Manager of Bravo! as well as outside experts).

Partnerships that Bravo!FACT has embarked upon include co-funding works with the CBC (including six projects in which the CBC commissioned a one-hour broadcast, and Bravo!FACT commissioned six to eight shorts. In each instance, Bravo! received the rights to air both the stand-alone shorts and the long-form programme); co-productions with the National Film Board of Canada; website links with the National Arts Centre and Heritage and a research project with the Ontario College of Art and Design.

In 2004, Bravo!FACT was the first organization in Canada to commission shorts for video cellphones (with the condition that they could also be broadcast). "Shorts In Motion" received significant media coverage in Canada, and was honoured at the 2005 MIP and at the 2006 San Francisco Film Festival. The success of that project led to "Shorts In Motion: The Art of Seduction" which was a 2006



International Interactive Emmy Nominee, won Best Made for Mobile Video Service at the GSM Global Mobile Awards (Barcelona, 2007) and Banff World Television Award for Best Original Content for Mobile (Banff, 2007), and had its world premiere broadcast on Bravo! In October 2006, Please visit www.shortsinmotion.com to experience the project.

The executive director of Bravo!FACT has had the opportunity to represent the programme on panels as diverse as the Banff Television Festival, MIP-MILIA, McMichael Gallery/University of Toronto, Cinesong French Festival of Music Videos (Paris), The Buenos-Aires Festival of Dance on Film, Innoversity, Just for Laughs (Montréal), TTV Bologna, Dance on Camera (New York), the Canadian Film Centre's Worldwide Short Film Festival, and Reelworld.

The Bravo!FACT office consists of three full-time and one half-time staff. The office handles all inquiries from applicants and awardees, prepares the award agreements and updates the website. The Bravo!FACT website (www.bravofact.com) includes a growing archive of digitized shorts, numbering at the moment in the hundreds.