

NEWS RELEASE
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Houston, we don't have a problem "Popcorn with Maple Syrup" ...wins gold

May 3, 2005 (Toronto)-On Saturday, April 30, "Popcorn with Maple Syrup: Film in Canada from Eh to Zed," Peter Rowe's two-hour documentary on Canadian movie history, won the Gold Special Jury Award at WorldFest, the 38th annual Houston Film Festival, beating out 116 other international entries, in the category of Feature Film Documentary.

Director Peter Rowe said, "Houston is the third-oldest film festival in North America and one of the largest in the world in terms of entries, so we were very pleased and proud to win the award for best feature documentary over so many others." The festival described the movie as "a crackerjack chronicle chock full of entertaining film tidbits and crackling with robust energy. A must see for all film buffs!" The film screened to a large audience in a Houston theatre last week.

Founder and festival director Hunter Todd added, "Great film! Loved to learn Edison was a common criminal on the lam! I suspected such! a brilliant survey of not only Canadian film history, but an important glimpse into the whole mess very different from Treasure Island... you do it all!" Rowe's feature movie, "Treasure Island," won Silver at the 1999 Houston Film Festival.

The first movie star in the world, the first three actresses to win Academy Awards,® the first performer in a nude scene, the first actress to kiss on-screen, the first nickelodeon-all were Canadian. From drive-ins to IMAX to Mike Myers to "The Barbarian Invasions," a rambunctious history, including key triumphs and disappointments, unfolds. International movie buffs in Houston learned that a girl from Hamilton named Florence Lawrence became the world's first movie star, invented the concept of rushes--not to mention the brake light!--was the centre of the first publicity stunt, and completely changed the nature of Hollywood celebrity before her tragic end. Rowe draws parallels between early pioneers, such as Thomas Edison, Mary Pickford and Ernest and Nell Shipman, and later actors and producers interviewed. It touches on the 1837 Rebellion, the Communist scare at the National Film Board, the financial shenanigans that brought down CINAR, the revolutionary films of the 1960s, and Canada's involvement in structures that changed the

world of film, including the creation of IMAX, the first multiplex cinema, and the world's first and biggest theatre chains.

"Popcorn with Maple Syrup: Film in Canada from Eh to Zed" premiered on CBC Television's Opening Night series on November 18, 2004.

"Popcorn with Maple Syrup: Film in Canada from Eh to Zed," photographed by legendary Canadian cinematographer Richard Leiterman, was produced by Peter Rowe Productions, in association with CBC Television, the Canadian Television Fund, Star Choice Communications, Sheridan College, CIFVF, IFC and Telefilm Canada.

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