Repertoire of Web Series Festivals and Awards Ceremonies for Canadian productions

By Laurence Beaudoin-Masse (Independent Production Fund) and Gabrielle Madé (Canada Media Fund)

Canadians are renowned as talented web series creators. Each and every year, dozens of web fictions and documentaries are produced here. Faced with an offer of quality productions that is perpetually increasing, one of these creators' main challenges remains "discoverability." How can creators make their projects stand out in the crowd? Among their available options, entering their work in national and international competitions is one of the most efficient ways to draw the attention of the media and potential audiences.

Still a rarity as little as two or three years ago, web series festivals and awards ceremonies today seem to be popping up everywhere around the globe. To help creators find their way around, below is a repertoire of competitions that accept Canadian production entries.

CANADA

CANADIAN SCREEN AWARDS

Location: Toronto

Gala held in: March

Description: The Canadian Screen Awards recognize excellence in film, television and digital media productions.

Note: Canadian original English-language productions only. Fiction and "non-fiction." Interpretation award. Interactive and linear projects in different categories.

GALA LES OLIVIER

Location: Montréal

Gala held in: May

Description: Gala Les Olivier publically showcases and rewards the work of amateur and professional comedians.

Note: Québec comedy and humour productions only. Original French-language versions. Interactive and linear projects in the same category.

[CONCOURS DES NUMIX](#)

Location: Montréal

Gala held in: May

Description: The NUMIX awards reward excellence in the field of Québec multimedia productions.

Details: Québec only. Original productions or productions translated into French or English. Public affairs, magazine, documentary, youth, humour, variety, fiction. Interactive and linear projects in different categories.

[YMA AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE](#)

Location: Montréal and Toronto (alternately)

Gala held in: May

Description: The YMA Awards of Excellence Gala is the true celebration of the talent and **creativity of Canada's French**- and English-speaking youth television and digital content professionals.

Details: Youth productions only. Interactive and linear projects in the same category.

[LEO AWARDS](#)

Location: Vancouver

Gala held in: June

Description: The Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Foundation of British Columbia is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to celebrate and promote the achievements of the British Columbia film and television industry through the presentation of an annual awards program — the Leo Awards.

Details: Open to British Columbian productions only. A single web series award: Best Web Series. Interactive and linear projects in the same category.

[VANCOUVER WEB FEST](#)

Location: Vancouver

Gala held in: March

Description: The Vancouver Web Fest celebrates the evolution of entertainment and programming created exclusively for the Internet.

Details: Fiction and non-fiction. It will recognize the best web series in the following categories: Best Director, Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Cinematography, Best Screenplay, Best Special/Visual Effects, Best Original Score, Best Sound Design; Best of Genre: Action/Adventure, Animation, Comedy, Family, Fantasy, Documentary, Drama, Horror, Mystery/Thriller, Reality, Science Fiction

TO WEBFEST

Location: Toronto

Gala held in: Spring

Description: A new initiative of Independent Webseries Creators of Canada scheduled for 2014. Not much information is available.

ROCKIE AWARDS

Location: Banff

Gala held in: June

Description: For over three decades, the Banff World Media Festival has brought top leaders from across the evolving media landscape to the heart of the Canadian Rockies for a totally unique experience.

Details: Original English-language productions or projects dubbed or subtitled in English. Fiction and "non-fiction." Interactive and linear projects in the same category.

GALA DES PRIX GÉMEAUX

Location: Montréal

Gala held in: September

Description: The Gémeaux awards celebrate excellence in Canadian French-language television programming.

Details: Canadian original French-language productions only. Fiction, humour, variety, public affairs, magazine, sports, documentary, youth and interpretation award. Interactive and linear projects in different categories.

DIGI AWARDS

Location: Toronto

Gala held in: December

Description: The Digi Awards are Canada's premier annual showcase of the remarkable companies, products and people who are making waves in the digital media industry.

Note: Canada only. Original English- or French-language productions. Fiction and "non-fiction." Interactive and linear projects in the same category.

UNITED STATES

LAWEBFEST

Location: Los Angeles

Gala held in: March

Description: LAWEBFEST is the oldest and largest web series festival in the world.

Details: Comedy, drama, comedy drama, documentary, mock documentary, public affairs, lifestyle, variety, travel, reality, vlog, science-fiction, horror, animation, soap, student projects. Interactive and linear projects in different categories.

NEW YORK FESTIVALS TV & FILM AWARDS

Location: New York

Gala held in: April

Description: New York Festival's World's Best Television & Films competition honours programming of all lengths and forms from over 50 countries. Dedicated to both the television and film industries, the categories mirror today's global trends and encourage the next generation of story-tellers and talent.

Details: Projected dubbed/subtitled in English. Entertainment, sports, current affairs. Interactive and linear projects in the same category.

INTERNATIONAL DIGITAL EMMY AWARDS

Location: Cannes

Gala held in: April (during MIPTV)

Description: The International Digital Emmy® Award is a U.S. award presented annually by the International Academy of Television Arts & Sciences in recognition of excellence in programming and program enhancement content, created and designed for viewer interaction and/or delivery on a digital platform (i.e., mobile, Internet, interactive TV, etc.) originating outside the United States.

Details: Interactive and linear projects in the same category. Youth, fiction and "non-fiction." Applicants must submit a 3 to 7-minute English-language (English subtitled) video presenting their project.

HOLLYWEB FESTIVAL

Location: Hollywood

Gala held in: April

Description: Created in 2012 by two web series creators, HollyWeb aims to honour web series creators for their hard work. HollyWeb gives creators an opportunity to see their work projected on a cinema-size screen in a professional theater as well as see their work recognized at an awards ceremony.

Details: Fiction and non-fiction. Interactive and linear projects in the same category. Prizes awarded in the following categories: best web series, best international web series, best online soap, best action/thriller/horror, best sci-fi/fantasy, best documentary/non-fiction, best actor, best actress, best directing, best screenwriting, best cinematography, best visual effects, best editing, best original music/score. Entries that are not originally in English must either be dubbed in English or have English subtitles. Subtitles are preferred.

WEBBY AWARDS

Location: New-York

Gala held in: Spring

Description: The Webby Awards are the leading international awards ceremony honouring excellence on the Internet. Established in 1996 during the web's infancy, the Webby Awards are presented by the International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences (IADAS), a 1,000+ member judging body that includes executive members—comprised of leading web experts, business figures, luminaries, visionaries and creative celebrities—and associate members, who are former Webby Award winners and nominees as well as other Internet professionals.

Details: Projects dubbed or subtitled in English. Comedy, documentary, fiction, public affairs, lifestyle, variety, travel, current affairs, reality, sports, technology, animation. Interactive and linear projects in the same category.

EUROPE

WEBPROGRAM-FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL

Location: La Rochelle, France

Gala held in: March

Description: The WebProgram-Festival is an international presentation of content created exclusively for the web.

Details: Public's award and jury's award. Current affairs, magazine, public affairs, animation, arts, travel, documentary, fiction, humour, youth. Interactive and linear projects in the same category.

ROMA WEB FEST

Location: Rome, Italy

Gala held in: September

Description: The Roma Web Fest is the first official Italian web series festival. It aims to promote a new model of reconciliation between the traditional film market, on the one

hand, and new authors and emerging productions that are using the web as a production and distribution channel, on the other hand.

Details: Fiction and non-fiction. Prizes awarded in the following categories: comedy story, comedy sketch, drama, science-fiction / fantasy / horror, mock documentary / reality.

RAINDANCE WEBFEST

Location: London, United Kingdom

Gala held in: September–October

Description: The Raindance WebFest is held during the Raindance Film Festival. The Raindance Film Festival is Europe's leading independent film festival. Listed by Variety as one of the world's top 50 'unmissable film festivals,' Raindance aims to nurture, support and promote independent films and filmmakers from the UK and around the world.

Details: Fiction and non-fiction. Interactive and linear projects in the same category.

MARSEILLE WEBFEST

Location: Marseille, France

Gala held in: October

Description: The Marseille Web Fest is the international fiction web series festival. It is the result of a partnership agreement with the organizers of LAWEBFEST.

Details: Fiction only. Jury's award, interpretation, screenwriting, production, music. Interactive and linear projects in the same category.

FESTIVAL TOUS ÉCRANS

Location: Geneva, Switzerland

Gala held in: October–November

Description: A one-of-a-kind festival in Europe, since 1995, the Festival Tous Écrans provides a full panorama showcasing the best of the best in motion pictures, television series as well as interactive fictions or documentaries.

Details: Fiction and non-fiction. Interactive and linear projects in different categories (web series and transmedia). Projects may be submitted but most projects are chosen by an international selection committee.

ASIA/OCEANIA

HK WEBFEST

Location: Hong Kong, China

Gala held in: June

Description: Hong Kong's 1st transmedia, branded entertainment and web series festival. It brings together content creators, producers and financial partners from around the world to discuss and explore new formats of cross-platform storytelling as well as financial structures for international co-productions.

Details: The first edition was held in 2013. Few details exist on the eligible projects.

MELBOURNE WEBFEST

Location: Melbourne, Australia

Gala held in: July

Description: Melbourne WebFest is Australia's first international web series festival.

Details: Fiction and non-fiction. Linear web series only. Prizes awarded for: best comedy, best drama, best fantasy, best non-fiction, best suspense/thriller. Furthermore, two special prizes are awarded: the Outstanding Diversity Award and the Grand Jury Prize.

Note: Feel free to send us information on any other festival or awards ceremony for which Canadian web series are eligible if it is not listed above.