

Local news

▶ TALENT IN THE VALLEY College instructor's film going to Montreal film festival

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An Okanagan College instructor's small film about his family is going to be screened at the prestigious World Film Festival.

One of the main themes of communications instructor Marc Arbellano's eight minute movie, *Kanadean*, is identity and how it is constructed.

"It is as easy as mathematics. Does one plus one always equal two or does two plus two always equal four?" asks Arbellano, who is himself the product of a mixed marriage between a man from Bolivia and a woman from St. Hyacinthe, Quebec.

"I don't know what it equals," Arbellano replied when asked if that makes him Bolivian-Canadian. "If we talk about it in terms of percentages or fractions then we can run into different problems."

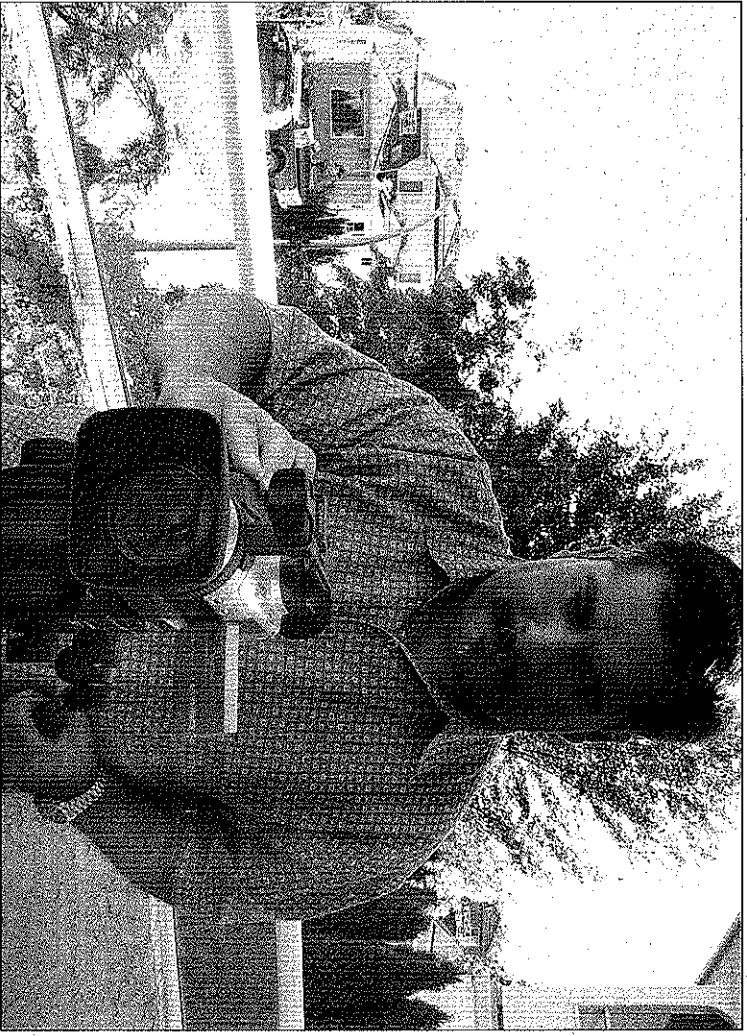
Kanadean will be appearing in Montreal later this month as part of a program of short movies called *Migrations*.

The movies were selected from over 200 short films submitted for an online contest being run by Radio-Canada International.

"The films that were selected from the *Migrations* category reflect diversity and identity issues for both Quebecers and Canadians and people in general across the world," said Thery Harris, project co-ordinator for the english section of *Migrations* at Radio-Canada.

Arbellano's movie blends old technology with new. He used digital video to interview his parents to get their perspectives on their experiences over the last 40-plus years.

Those are intercut with old Super-8 footage Arbellano transferred to digital. It shows



MARC ARBELLANO, a communications instructor at Okanagan College, works with his digital video camera. His eight minute movie, *Kanadean*, will screen as part of a program of short films at the World Film Festival in Montreal.

Arbellano's young parents on their honeymoon in the Laurentians and at Expo '67 in Montreal, as well as shots of baby Marc and his brothers.

"That was a time in Canadian history of incredible hope," Arbellano said of the Expo footage.

He added that time was Canada's coming of age, when Canadian identity was itself being created.

"The film's not just about my personal family," he said, but about about the larger Canadian family.

"It's very much a film about fitting into your environment," said Harris. "And recognizing who you are and valuing who you are, regardless of your background and it's really a film about taking the best parts of where you come from and then person-

ifying them in who you are in the present.

Arbellano decided to make the film because he will be teaching a new media course in the fall.

"I'm one of those professors who wants to teach and do," said Arbellano. "You want to have that succeed."

This is not Arbellano's first foray into making films or videos. Before he start-

ed teaching at the college, he worked in marketing for Non-co bikes where he made promotional videos.

That was in 2002 and 2003 before the era of YouTube and online videos.

"That kind of taught me there is a role for new media," he said.

Arbellano calls being able to deal with new media, like the online videos of YouTube,

"the new literacy."

He said his course will cover both how to create new media but also how to critique the avalanche of information streaming through his students computer screens.

"If we don't have a population that can critique what they're being fed, then there's more of a chance that they'll be sheep," he said.

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