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THE VOICE AND VISION OF  
B.C.'S MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY



BRITISH  
COLUMBIA  
FILM

whistler<sup>09</sup>  
film festival  
DECEMBER 03 - 06 NEW TERRAIN

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## News Release

### **And the 2009 MPPIA Short Film Award Goes To... Kelly-Ruth Mercier for *Move Out Clean***

**Vancouver, Canada** – Pitch candidate Kelly-Ruth Mercier emerged from a field of five talented filmmakers to take home the third annual MPPIA Short Film Award on December 6 at the 2009 Whistler Film Festival Forum.

Kelly-Ruth delivered a compelling pitch which, combined with a strong script, vision and overall submission package, helped her to edge out the four other talented filmmakers who were shortlisted to make the final pitch for the 2009 Award. The pitch competition featured five finalists selected in the first adjudication phase in November 2009. Mercier's co-finalists for this year's MPPIA Short Film Award were: Gabriel Correa (*Beautiful Gun*), Siobahn Devine (*Eddie, Then and Now*), Michael Grand (*Hayloft*) and Robert Holbrook (*Beware of Dog*).

Guided by moderator, filmmaker and educator Sue Biely, the three jurors for the final pitch competition were filmmakers Karen Lam (*The Cabinet*), Peter Stebbings (*Defendor*) and Andrew Williamson (*Sk8 Life*).

Said Williamson following the jury's decision, "This was not an easy decision – all of the finalists pitched with passion and conviction in their projects. Ultimately, the jury agreed Kelly Ruth's proposal for *Move Out Clean* would benefit most from the scope of industry resources that the MPPIA Short Film Award offers in addition to the cash award."

"I look forward to seeing what Kelly-Ruth makes of this opportunity when '*Move Out Clean*' screens at the Whistler Film Festival next year," Williamson added.

A partnership initiative of the Motion Picture Production Industry Association (MPPIA), British Columbia Film and the Whistler Film Festival to support the career development of emerging BC filmmakers, the prestigious Award comprises \$15,000 in cash plus in-kind services up to \$100,000 for the production of a short film project. The Award was established to recognize the contribution of film and television to the growing creative economy in British Columbia.

"The MPPIA Short Film Award is one of the largest filmmaking prizes in Canada," said MPPIA Chair Peter Leitch. "We are very pleased to be able to assemble the support and resources to help one of BC's talented filmmakers take his or her career to the next level."

(more)

Leitch added, "I want to thank our Award jury for their generous participation. I would also like to thank British Columbia Film, the Whistler Film Festival and MPPIA members for their support – without them this Award would not be possible."

The completed MPPIA Short Film Award project will screen at the 2010 Whistler Film Festival.

**The Motion Picture Production Industry Association of BC (MPPIA)** is a member-based, non-profit society established in April 2002 to grow, diversify and promote a competitive and sustainable motion picture production industry in British Columbia.

**British Columbia Film** is a non-profit society established in 1987 by the provincial government with a mandate to expand and diversify the film, television and digital media sector in British Columbia.

**The Whistler Film Festival Society (WFFS)** is a charitable, not for profit cultural and educational organization committed to promoting, developing and celebrating a strong film industry in Western Canada, and to showcasing the best films from Canada and around the world.

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**Director Kelly-Ruth Mercier:** *Move Out Clean* is the story of Jake, who, while cleaning up after a breakup gets more than he expected and finds the more you clean, the more dirt you sometimes dig up.

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