MARA RAVINS

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[www.subversivebeauty.com](http://www.subversivebeauty.com)

(Latvian/Canadian Citizenship)

**DIRECTOR AND SOLE OWNER OF:**

**LAIKA FILMS INC.** (incorporated 27/01/99) **SIA LAIKA FILMS** (incorporated 20/01/2012)

42-16 St. Joseph St. Kr. Valdemara 33-10a

Toronto, ON M4Y 1J9 Riga LV 1010

**WRITER/DIRECTOR/PRODUCER**

*(on all projects, unless specified)*

***FILM:***

***2008 – Current:***

**SIBERIAN STORY**: *(in development)* Completing 3rd draft script exploring exile from a female perspective, original story and treatment based on the collected testimonials of those deported to Siberia in the 1940’s. (*Received Canada Council for the Arts Established Film Artists Grant 2011/2012 to go from treatment to 1st draft*)

**INVITATION TO RED*:*** *(in development)* Completing 2nd draft script for a ½ hour dramatic film exploring passion and seduction from a female perspective through the story of a woman rediscovering and redefining sensuality, sexuality and desire on her terms, after being seduced by the color red.

**A GOOD MAN IS HARD TO FIND**: (in development) 2nd draft Feature script exploring violence and grace.

**SOLACE,** (2006)Digital, 19 min. black & white, Drama exploring violence and grace.

*Riga “Arsenals” International Film Festival*, Latvia, October 2008

*32nd New England Film & Video Festival*, 2007

*Silver City Film Festival*, 2nd Prize best dramatic narrative film, New Mexico, 2007

*Stephen Bulgar Gallery*, Toronto, 2007

*John Spotten Theatre*, National Film Board of Canada, 2007

*New Riga Theatre*, Latvia, October 2006

**MATIN DANS UNE FORET DE PINS**, (1998) 16mm., col. Feature doc/drama (Latvian w. English subtitles) the lives of six young people unfold in a journey where the boundaries between documentary and fiction, reality and dream cease to exist. Shot entirely on location in Latvia. (**Co-Producer, Co-Director, Co-Editor with Janis Kalejs**)

*Montreal World Film Festival*, Cinema of Tomorrow: New Trends, **Canada** 1998. (In the *Telefilm* competition for Best Canadian Film)

*Riga “Arsenals” International Film Festival*, **Latvia** 1998.

*“Andaluzijas Suns” Kinoteatris*, Riga, Latvia, theatrical run, October, 1998.

*Cinematheque* & *John Spotton Theater*, Toronto, theatrical run, November, 1998

*Balticum Film & TV Festival*, Bornholm, **Sweden,** Official Selection Competition, June 1999.

*Marseille International Doc Film Festival*, **France**, Official Selection Competition, June 1999.

*St. Petersburg “Message to Man” Documentary Film Festival*, **Russia**, June 1999.

*Encontros Internacionais de Cinema*, **Portugal**, November 1999. (special Jury award)

**KANANANAYA**, music video for band HMP?, ATENTAT KULTURE & BLUE PROD., Riga, Latvia.

**SAND IN HER SHOES**, (1994) 16mm., col., ½ hour, a woman’s story of a journey through ritual to empowerment, shot in the desert of New Mexico.

Riga, *Arsenals International Film Festival*, Latvia, 1996.

*International Women’s Film Festival Minsk*, March 1997.

**VELVEETA AFTERNOON**, (1991) 16mm., col., ½ hour, drama exploring the ambiguous and deceptive nature of language and memory in coming to terms with personal truth through two characters; a small town 50’s woman and her young guest.

**ANNA & LAURA**, (1989) 1 hour drama, video, exploring the notion of duality through the lives of two very different women.

**BLUE SKY/GREY SKY**, (1989) 5 min., 16mm./video, a filmic journey of a woman through the alienating landscape of the subway.

***TELEVISION:***

**SKIN DEEP,** 13 x 30 min. documentary series on plastic surgery, INNER CITY FILMS (LIFE and Discovery Health Channels). Produced, directed, edited 7 episodes (2001)

***THEATER AND ART PERFORMANCE:***

1985-86 **ESTIMATED PURITY,WHY DON’T YOU DANCE WITH ME?. LA,LA,LA, A PIE, FATHER/LAND**

1981-84 **AQUASPHERES OR WHATEVER HAPPENED TO NARCCISSUS? ORTHO/HETERO DOX, STATIC INTERFERENCE, SOIREE, SON OF SOIREE, I ALSO PLAN TO CANCEL MY ARTS CANADA SUBSCRIPTION, WHEN DID WE EVER HAVE BREAKFAST TOGETHER? PLASTIK PASSION, NIGHT WHEN THE VEIL IS THIN**

**(*Documented in the Canadian Anthology of Performance Art, 1970-1990, Coach House Press, 1992.*)**

**DETAILS OF PERFORMANCE ART: (IN CASE NEEDED)**

**AQUASPHERES OR WHATEVER HAPPENED TO NARCISSUS?** Performance with Ruta Gravlejs, Kafe Koncert, 149 Yonge St., Toronto, Canada, November 15, 1981.

**ORTHO/HETERO DOX**, Performance/Installation by *STATIC INTERFERENCE* (performance artists Mara Ravins & Caroline Mardon), Latvian Lutheran Church, Toronto, Canada, February 28, 1982.

**STATIC INTERFERENCE**, Performance/Installation by *Static Interference*, Kafe Koncert, Toronto, Canada, March 19, 1982 with guest punk bands Sledgehammer Pie & Dagmar.

**SOIREE**, Performance/Installation by *Static Interference*, Spadina Hotel, Toronto, Canada, April 10, 1982.

**SON OF SOIREE**, Performance/Installation by *Static Interference*, Kafe Koncert, Toronto, Canada, April 15, 1982.

**I ALSO PLAN TO CANCEL MY ARTS CANADA SUBSCRIPTION**, Performance by *Static Interference*, May 18, 1982 Actor’s Lab., May 20, 1982 Danceworks, Toronto, Canada.

**WHEN DID WE EVER HAVE BREAKFAST TOGETHER**? Performance by Mara Ravins, Actor’s Lab, Toronto, May 1982.

**PLASTIK PASSION**, Performance by Mara Ravins with Erik Hughes, Zambuka Klub, Artculture Resource Centre and Gallery 940, March 31, 1984/ April 1984, Toronto, Canada.

**NIGHT WHEN THE VEIL IS THIN**, Performance Kensington Market, Toronto, Canada, October 31, 1984.

**LA,LA,LA A PIE**, Performance with Elaine Wigle, Cecilia Varga, Brecht Theatre, University of Michigan, USA, January 31, 1985.

**ESTIMATED PURITY**, Performance with Saxophonist Richard Underhill, Latvian Cultural Centre, Toronto, Canada, March 31, 1985.

**WHY DON’T YOU DANCE WITH ME?** Performance by Mara Ravins, Horseshoe Tavern, Toronto, Canada, May 31, 1985.

**FATHER/LAND** Performance/Installation by Mara Ravins, soundtrack Cecilia Varga, The Great Hall, 1087 Queen St. W., Toronto, Canada, February 28, 1986.

**VIDEO AND FILM INSTRUCTOR**

**CENTENNIAL COLLEGE, W.I.F.T.,** Workshops on production financing (2006-2011)

**LIASON OF INDEPENDENT FILMMAKERS**, Workshops on Arriflex and digital video cameras, Production Design and How to Run an Art Department (1991)

**ONTARIO COLLEGE OF ART & DESIGN**, Guest lecturer in Film Theory (1999)

**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO**, Faculty of Music Performance and Communications, Fall session 88/89, 89/90

I have also participated a number of times as a Film Jury member for the Ontario Arts Council and recently for the EstDocs Film Festival 2009.

**PHOTOGRAPHY**: publications, CD booklets, in private collections (portfolio available) *Artist as member of Gallery 44.*

**EDUCATION**

**ONTARIO COLLEGE OF ART & DESIGN** New Media (Film, photo, video)1985-87

**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO** Hon. B.A. History (major), Theater (minor) 1981

**MUNSTER LETT. GYMNASIUM** Abitur (West Germany) 1975

**DIXON GROVE MIDDLE SCHOOL** Graduated 1971

**WESTWAY PUBLIC SCHOOL** Graduated 1969

**LANGUAGES** Latvian, English, basic German and French, student of Russian

**AWARDS**

Mara Ravins has received numerous **Canada Council** and **Ontario Arts Council** grants for film over the last 10 years, financial support from the **OFDC (now OMDC)**, the **National Film Board of Canada, The Danish Film Institute**, and **The Toronto Arts Council** as well as two grants from the prestigious **Soros Foundation** in New York (now the Sundance Documentary Fund). (also Soros Latvia)

**OTHER IMPORTANT INDUSTRY WORK:**

**ALLIANCE ATLANTIS COMMUNICATIONS INC.** March 1998 – August 2002: Script and novel analyst for the Motion Picture and TV Departments.

**ONTARIO MEDIA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**: Project Analyst (Business Officer) for Film & Television in the Financing & Tax Credits department. 2006 – to current. Analyzing financing, co-production structures, production service agreements, all legal contracts, casting, crew and producer control issues, budgets and final cost reports.

**BACK ALLEY FILMS., GALAFILM.**Production consultation and creating development packagesincluding financial plans, budget breakdowns*,* scriptanalysis and synopsis, treatments, researchand concept development (on going basis freelance).

**INSTINCT FILMS/NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA:** 9 months of Research and writing toward the development of the docu/drama FAMILY MOTEL based on the lives of homeless living in the motels in the suburbs of Toronto. 2005

**WARDROBE WORK**: Over 1,500 hours of on set wardrobe work with Nabet 700 and IATSE Local 873 for shows such as Friday The 13th series, Palais Royale, JFK, Bait.

**ART DIRECTION/ PRODUCTION DESIGN (selected)**

**ARRESTING DESIGN,** *Design Dept. Head,* Reality TV, 1st season, W Channel. (2003)

**ODYSSEY** (6 episodes), *Buyer,* 35mm. Sci-Fiction TV Series, Showtime (2002)

**A SORDID AFFAIR**, *Art Director*, 35mm. Feature, Arto-Pelli/Gemini Filmprodukc. (1999)

**DANGEROUS OFFENDER**, *Head Set Decorator*, 35mm., Feature, CBC (1995)

**BLOOD & DONUTS**, *Art Director*, 35mm.,Feature, Cnd Film Center/Daban Films (1995)

**BOULEVARD**, *Head Set Decorator*, 35mm., Feature, Norstar (1993)

**JOHNSTON, JOHNSTON**, *Production Designer,* 1/2 hr., CBC/Square Deal Prod.(1993)

**LISA LOUGHEED**, *Production Designer*, Music Video, Players (1993)

**TC 2000**, *Head Set Decorator*, 35mm., Feature, Film One Productions (1993)

**RED HOT**, *Assistant Wardrobe Designer*, 35mm., Feature, Red Hot Motion Pic. (1992)

**GERDA**, *Production Designer*, 16mm., col., Feature, Gerda Film Production (1991)

**FRIDAY THE 13th**, series, Assistant Wardrobe Mistress, Triumph Ent. (1988-89)

**HOW WILL I KNOW WHEN I’M HERE?** *Set Decorator/Builder*, 16mm., Feature

McLelland Film Productions (1989)

**MYSTERIOUS MOONMEN OF CANADA**, *Production Designer*, 16mm., ½ hr.

The film received a 1989 Genie Award. A film by Colin Brunton. (1987)

**STAHLKAMMER ZURICH**, *Production Designer*, 4 Eps.TV series., Bavaria Film (1985)

**WATCH THIS**, *Production Designer*, short, National Film Board of Canada (1984)

**PRIME RIB**, *Production Designer*, 1 hour pilot for TV series, CKVR/CBC (1984)

**CLOSE YOUR EYES AND THINK OF ENGLAND**, *Set Decorator, Key Props*,

16mm., ½ hr. A film by Janis Lundman. (1984)

**HEART OF THE FOREST**, *Production Designer*, 16mm., ½ hr., Lindrian Films (1984)

**ARTICLES PUBLISHED ON FILM WORK: (selected)**

“Cinema and the Seduction of Beauty”, interview with Mara Ravins, Agnese Civle, in Arterritory, March 2012.

“Again With the tribe” by Kristine Matiss, Latvian Independent Morning Daily, Interview with filmmaker Mara Ravins, October 21, 2006.

“Life…In the Cities. Will Morning in the Pine Forest be a sensation?, by Normunds Naumanis, film critic for Latvia’s largest daily, Diena, September 21, 1998.

“I Want to Break My Prejudices,” by Dita Rietums, film critic for Latvia’s largest daily Diena, September 25, 1998.

“To Be A Part Of…,” by Elga Liepa, Art +, September 3, 1998.

“Morning in the Pine Forest”, by Sergei Timofeiev, film critic for Russian daily Diena, September 10, 1998.

“Unexpected Connections,” by Vineta Lagzdina, Baltic Times, September 30, 1998., Latvija Amerika, November 21, 1998.

“Morning in the Pine Forest,” film review by V. Badayant, St. Petersburg’s Alternative Press, June 25, 1999.

“Sweet Song of Youth,” by Dimitri Katadotis, film critic, Hour, August 28 - September 3, 1998.

“Documentary Tracks Life for Latvian Teens,” Cameron Bailey, NOW, November 12 - 18, 1998.

“Morning in the Pine Forest,” by Imants Magons, Latvija Amerika, December 5, 1998.

“A Timely Film About Youth in Latvia,” by A. Straume, Latvija Amerika, November 21, 1998.

**T.V. /RADIO INTERVIEWS:**

*June 2008*: www. *Thatradio.com* – 1 hour interview w. Mara Ravins about her film work

*September 1998*: *Latvian National Television* (LNT)- Mara Ravins & Janis Kalejs ½ hour talk show special; *Latvian State Television* - Mara Ravins interview on the Early Morning Talk Show; Latvia’s *TV5* - ½ hour special on Mara Ravins and her work; *Latvian State Radio* - 1 hour interview with Mara Ravins with music from the film.

***(references available on request)***