



bookshorts

DIRECTOR
Gary Thomas

ANIMATION & GRAPHIC DESIGN
Crush

SCREEN ADAPTATION
John Karolidis

ORIGINAL MUSIC
David Fleury

SOUND DESIGN
Dan Kuntz

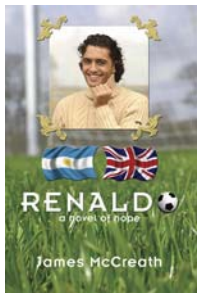
PRODUCERS
Judith Keenan
Stephanie Pennington
Meredith Conacher

INTERVIEW
James McCreath

CAMERA
Cabot McNenly

EDITOR
Kim Knight

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS
Judith Keenan
Jo-Ann Cook



BASED ON THE BOOK
Renaldo: A Novel of Hope
By James McCreath
BookSurge 2007
ISBN: 1419639188



A LIFE'S PASSION

A DOCU-DRAMA SHORT FILM BASED ON THE NOVEL AND BIOGRAPHY OF JAMES MCCREATH

DIRECTED BY GARY THOMAS; ANIMATION BY CRUSH

ABOUT THE FILM: *A Life's Passion* is the biography of James McCreath, who turned his real-life story into the epic family saga, *Renaldo*. Director Gary Thomas interweaves McCreath's on-camera testimony with dramatic animated sequences and an original score absolutely true to the novel's historical fiction, and in just over six minutes of cinema, poignantly captures McCreath's personal credo that without faith, hope and passion, life is a tragedy.

FILM VERSIONS AVAILABLE

A LIFE'S PASSION: DIRECTOR'S CUT (6:30)

A LIFE'S PASSION: ANIMATION CUT (2:00)

FORMATS

BETA SP; MINI-DV, DVD-R/V, .MOV, .WMV

DISTRIBUTION CONTACT

Judith Keenan
judith@bookshorts.com
www.BookShorts.com
416.855.2425

ABOUT THE BOOK: James McCreath's thrilling novel *Renaldo* tells the saga of three generations of the De Seta family of Buenos Aires. From the sweeping plains of the Pampas in 1898 to the corridors of power in the modern day capital, the story ultimately focuses on young soccer prodigy Renaldo De Seta as he strives to make Argentina's 1978 World Cup team. As a result of saving the life of a wealthy lawyer, Renaldo is brought into the web of intrigue spun by this Astor Gordero, the most influential man in Argentina. Through Gordero he meets the woman of his dreams, the nation's reigning pop diva, Simone Yvonne Montanna Carta Aqua, the seemingly unreachable Symca. At the same time, Renaldo's older brother Lonfranco has also come under an erotic spell though one with less worthy intent, a Montonero terrorist posing as a university tutorial instructor. The entire De Seta clan suffers and triumphs in this meticulously researched work of historical fiction. It's a novel that resonates with the real-world politics of the country and the real-life faith, hope and passion of its author's fateful life.



bookshorts

BookShorts Literacy Program Presents A BookShort Documentary Film

A LIFE'S PASSION

Based on the Novel **RENALDO** by James McCreath

CREDITS

Director GARY THOMAS	Film Editor KIM KNIGHT
Screen Adaptation JOHN KAROLIDIS	Online Editors KAELEM CAHILL NAVEEN SRIVASTAVA DAN MARGULES PATRICK MOORE
Design & Animation by CRUSH ADRIAN LAWRENCE CHRIS ROLF, TONY RAMAYON TRISTAN ZERAFA, YOHO HANG YUE	Music Producer / Arranger DAVID FLEURY
Music Composer DAVID FLEURY	Sound Design DAN KUNTZ
Interview JAMES MCCREATH	Music Coordination MAGGIE BLOUIN
Renaldo MATT UNWIN	Executive Producers JUDITH KEENAN JO-ANN COOK
Tango Girl KRISTEN VAN FLEET	
Producers JUDITH KEENAN STEPHANIE PENNINGTON MEREDITH CONACHER	BOOKSHORTS' SPECIAL THANKS TO Sons and Daughters The School of Professional Makeup Velocci Models
Consulting Director DAVID HICKS	JAMES MCCREATH'S SPECIAL THANKS TO Sara Ann Ratliff, BookSurge Publications Ivona Zimonjic, Konverge and Know, Website Design My family, Annie, Kari, Carly, Christian, Adrian, Tommy, Isabella, Christie and Coco
Camera CABOT MCNENLY	For more about James McCreath www.renaldo.com
Grip ELLY BENDAVID	
Make Up EMILY MALIN	
Script Editor BRUCE PIRRIE	
Script Research GLYNNIS MAPP	© 2008 BookShorts Literacy Program www.bookshorts.com



BookShorts Literacy Program Presents A BookShort Documentary Film

A LIFE'S PASSION

Based on the Novel **RENALDO** by James McCreath

CANADA - ENGLISH - 06:30 – 2008 - COLOR – DOCUMENTARY LIVE ACTION WITH ANIMATION

GARY THOMAS, Director / Animator

GARY THOMAS is a native of Winnipeg, Canada, who brought his studies to Toronto where he graduated from Classical Animation then Computer Animation at Sheridan College. He was recruited from Sheridan College by Centro Digital Pictures in Hong Kong, one of Asia's leading animation and special effects houses, to help start a graphics and animation department. Within two years, he was Creative Director, grew the department to 30 people, and directed commercials which won numerous awards, including Clios, New York and Houston Film Festival. From Hong Kong, Thomas moved to Garner MacLennan Design in Sydney Australia, where he directed commercials and broadcast identities for Fox and Opts Satellite television channels. Again he garnered multiple BDA broadcast design awards, Montreux Festival awards for Red Music channel ID's and a Cannes Gold for a Reebok Commercial. In 1997, he was Recruited by Toybox (now Technicolor) Came back to Toronto as a senior designer/compositor, and shortly thereafter founded Crush Inc.. Crush is a major post and motion graphics design firm in Toronto, employing over 30 people. Their work has won BDA's, and Bessie Awards, and Cannes Gold lions. Their work with electronic artist Moby, was nominated for a Grammy, and film and TV titles have included "Souvenir of Canada", "The Last Mogul" and the last two Ron James TV specials for the CBC.

JAMES MCCREATH, Author of *Renaldo*

James McCreath was born June 8, 1948 in Toronto, Canada. His father was Ralph McCreath, Canadian and North American figure skating champion in mens and pairs, 1937 and 1938. Major in the 48th. Highlanders during World War Two. Canada's senior Olympic figure skating judge. Inducted into the Canadian figure skating hall of fame. Queens Counsel lawyer.

His mother was Myrtle Franceschini, heiress to the Dufferin Construction Company and only child of Italian immigrant James Franceschini. Founded JPM Enterprises Limited, the McCreath family business, in 1961 with the proceeds of the sale of Dufferin Construction.

James McCreath was educated at the Crescent School, St. Andrew's College, York Mills Collegiate and Trinity College, University of Toronto. Upon the death of his mother Myrtle in May 1968, he dropped out of U of T to work at the family business. Obtained his real estate brokers license and worked as a developer and landlord in commercial and residential real estate for the next forty years.

During this time he also owned the Toronto Young Nationals Hockey organization, one of Canada's premier hockey systems. In 1973 he was involved with the formation of the Ontario Franchise of the World Hockey Association, which later became the Ottawa Nationals and the Toronto Toros. Moving into the music and entertainment fields, he owned and operated Tirebiter Productions and Tirebiter Sound, during the mid 1970's. Tirebiter specialized in coast to coast musical concerts of the leading rock entertainers of the day, as well as an innovative musical equipment store catering to professional musicians. He has also had experience in the restaurant business.

James was married in 1976 to Carol Skilling of Sudbury Ontario. They had two daughters, Kari Anne, in 1977, and Carly Colleen in 1980. In 1987 Carol became ill with sleep deprivation, and its associated side effects. As a result, Carol took her own life in 1990. Immediately after the death of Carol that James started to write "Renaldo." James had always loved sports, especially the passion and international colour of the sport of soccer. "Renaldo" was painstakingly researched over the next seven years, resulting in the initial hard copy edition in 1997. After exhibiting his work at book fairs in Chicago, Toronto, and Frankfurt Germany, James decided that the state of the publishing business at that time did not warrant further energy.

In 1994, James married a long time family friend, Anne Smythe, and their extended family now includes Anne's two children, Christie and Tommy Smythe. Thirteen years later the family is blessed with two granddaughters, Coco Mathieu, (Christie) and Annabella Dougherty, (Carly). James and his family now spend their time between Toronto, Lake Muskoka, and West Palm Beach Florida.

CRUSH ANIMATION

CRUSH INC. (www.crushinc.com) is a creative graphics, animation and post-production studio in Toronto, Canada and is comprised of two complementary business divisions: 1) CRUSH, which creates and produces customized marketing collateral for commercial clients performed under service contracts, and 2) MORON which focuses on the creation, production and licensing of original entertainment properties to traditional broadcasters, as well as broadband and Internet distributors.

In 2005, the Company began its move into the production of creative properties with the hire of animation director, CHRIS MINOS, an independent animation director who had just completed seven years at Industrial Light and Magic in San Francisco. Under Minos' direction, the animation department was recruited to enhance the IP capabilities of the studio.

The team is currently producing a short animation film, "Knight Fever," which is scheduled for completion in 2008, and will be submitted to international film festivals prior to its placement with digital and traditional broadcasters. A second film based on a Shelley poem called "Ozymandias" is in storyboard stage, and will move into production in spring 2008, and the festival circuit immediately upon completion.

November 2006 saw the launch of Free Word Association, a collaborative project headed by Thomas and designers Vanessa Eckstein and involving writers, directors and producers in Canada, Mexico, the U.S. and the U.K. Free Word will produce a series of short films whose goal is to highlight the importance of free speech.

BOOKSHORTS LITERACY PROGRAM

BookShorts Literacy Program (bookshorts.com) was established to encourage media literacy in all its forms. The not-for-profit organization accomplishes this by producing screen-based media, namely short films and video author profiles; then ensuring they are broadcast in as many places and in as many ways as possible; and undertaking marketing, promotion and publicity programs that allow for maximum exposure to the public through events, screenings and availability at home. For More Information, contact: Judith Keenan, Executive Producer, judith@bookshorts.com