

SYNOPSIS

FIX ***The Story of an Addicted City***

Dean Wilson used to be an IBM salesman. Now he is possibly the most outspoken drug addict in Canada. As president of the Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users (VANDU) he is a loud and articulate advocate for street addicts from Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, one of Canada's poorest neighbourhoods, and the site of the highest HIV rate in North America.

Ann Livingston is the charismatic organizer of VANDU. She is a non-user, driven by an impatient spirituality and she is as confrontational as hell. Together, Ann and Dean lead an unpredictable crew of street addicts in their fight to open North America's first safe injection site for drug users. Safe injection sites, where users can inject drugs without the danger of overdose or infection, are seen by supporters as the first step in bringing addicts into treatment programs. In 27 cities around the world, safe injection sites have been proven to save lives.

Dean loves Ann. But he also is captured by the drugs he uses.

Dean Wilson has found a curious ally in Philip Owen, the conservative Mayor of Vancouver who has alarmed members of his own party by championing a daring new drug philosophy called Harm Reduction. The Mayor's plan for dealing with drug and addiction breaks away from the American-style War on Drugs by seriously considering safe injection sites and heroin maintenance programs for long term addicts. Philip Owen is a mayor struggling to transform his city from being North America's most notorious drug port into possibly becoming the first city on the continent to realistically face drug addiction.

The Mayor is staking his political career on Harm Reduction. Dean Wilson and Ann Livingston say the drug users are staking their lives on it.

But not everyone agrees with the Mayor or the users. Key members of the Mayor's own political party, together with an alliance of business and local residents, say they will do everything they can to stop safe injection sites and the Mayor's plan. They say their neighbourhoods, their children and their livelihoods are at risk. They are taking to the streets. So are the drug users.

Vancouver Police Sergeant Doug Lang is the cop caught in the middle. He is in charge of the corner of Main and Hastings, the heart of North America's largest open drug scene. He wakes up homeless addicts who sleep in the streets, arrests drug dealers and tries to maintain a sense of law and order in the area - he calls it shoveling water.

As the Mayor battles members of his own political party, Dean Wilson dares to face his own addiction. The stories of FIX span over two years as our characters' lives interconnect to reveal a battle for the hearts, minds and streets of a city each one calls home.

CHRONOLOGY OF A DRUG CRISIS

- 1939** British Columbia MLA Ernest Winch urges Canada to follow Britain's model of providing minimal doses of opiates made available by legal means under doctors' care.
- 1952** Vancouver's **Community Chest and Council** recommends provinces across Canada establish clinics for chronic drug users so they can receive minimum dosages.
- 1993** Fatal drug overdoses in Vancouver increases from **18** in 1988 to **200** in 1993. (**A Framework for Action**, Donald McPherson, Drug Policy Coordinator, City of Vancouver)
- 1994** Chief Coroner of British Columbia, Vince Cain, releases a broad analysis of drug use in the province. **The Cain Report** states that vast amounts of money are being spent on the drug problem within the criminal justice system with little or no effect. The report calls for policy makers to recognize that the misuse of heroin, cocaine and other drugs is primarily a health issue.
- 1997** The Vancouver Injection Drug User's Study (VIDUS) conducted by the BC Centre for Excellence records the rate of incidence of HIV amongst injection drug users to be 18 percent. This is the highest HIV rate ever observed in the developed world.
- 1997** The Vancouver/Richmond Health Board declares a health emergency in the downtown eastside of Vancouver. This is in response to the high rate of overdose deaths and simultaneous epidemics involving HIV, hepatitis A, B and C, syphilis and tuberculosis.
- 1998** The **Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users** (VANDU) is founded by Ann Livingston, Bud Osborn and a group of active drug users. VANDU has since grown into the largest drug user group in Canada, and one of the largest in the world.
- 1998** BC Provincial Health Officer Dr. John Millar submits a report, "Pay Now or Pay Later". He states that the illicit nature of drug use is forcing users to criminal activity and jail and that there is inadequate provision of and capacity for addiction treatment for intravenous drug users. His solutions include tightly controlled medical prescription of heroin and a reduction in sentences for possession.
- 2000** Between 1990 and 2000, more than twelve hundred people have died in the city of Vancouver from drug overdoses. (**A Framework for Action**, Donald McPherson, Drug Policy Coordinator, City of Vancouver)
- 2000** Canada Wild Productions begins to shoot **FIX: The Story of an Addicted City**
- 2000** Mayor Philip Owen proposes **A Framework for Action: A Four Pillar Approach to Drug Problems in Vancouver**. The Framework presents 36 actions falling under the categories of Prevention, Treatment, Enforcement and Harm

Reduction. The last pillar includes a task force to consider safe injection sites in Vancouver and across the country.

- 2001** After months of intense debate, Vancouver City Council votes unanimously to support the Mayor's drug plan, A Framework for Action. Lacking a federal legal framework and funds from both the province and the federal government, most of the plan cannot be implemented.
- 2001** The Federal Safe Injection Site Task Force recommends a pilot study on safe injection facilities proceed. The task force, chaired by British Columbia's medical health officer, Dr Perry Kendall, develops minimal criteria for pilot programs of safe injection facilities.
- 2001** British Columbia's Provincial Task Group on Addiction produces a report which includes a recommendation that safe injection facilities be implemented.
- 2001** A Federal/ Provincial / Territorial report "Reducing the Harms from Injection Drug Use" is tabled with Canada's ministers of health. A Task group to examine the feasibility of a scientific study of supervised injection sites is struck.
- 2002** The rate of incidents of HIV prevalence amongst injection drug users in Vancouver rises to 30 percent. The rate of hepatitis reaches 91 percent. (**Vancouver Injection Drug User's Study (VIDUS)** conducted by the BC Centre for Excellence)
- 2002** **February.** Mayor Philip Owen puts forward a motion to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) -- Big City Mayor's Caucus. The motion recommends that the Caucus identify three or four cities willing to join Vancouver to participate with Health Canada in scientific trials of supervised consumption sites. The motion is passed unanimously.
- 2002** **April.** Opponents of the Mayor's drug plan push Philip Owen out of his own political party. The Mayor decides not to run for re-election as an independent.
- 2002** **November 15.** Vancouver elects former provincial coroner Larry Campbell as Mayor. Both Campbell and eight out of ten new councillors are pro harm reduction. In his first week in office, Mayor Campbell announces that Vancouver will open its first safe injection site in the Spring of 2003.

BIOGRAPHIES:

NETTIE WILD

Producer, Director, co-Camera

Canadian filmmaker Nettie Wild is best known for her feature length documentary films, ***A Place Called Chiapas*** (1998), ***A Rustling of Leaves: Inside the Philippine Revolution*** (1989/90), and ***Blockade*** (1993). ***A Place Called Chiapas*** won the 1999 Genie Award for Best Canadian Feature Documentary and has played theatrically in over 100 cities in cinemas across North America. It was premiered at the Berlin Film Festival (Forum of New Cinema), won the Audience Award for best documentary at the AFI-Los Angeles International Film Festival and was broadcast as a 2-hour prime time special on the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. Among other honours, ***A Rustling of Leaves*** was awarded The People's Choice Award at the Berlin Film Festival (Forum of New Cinema), the Prix du Public at the NFB's Salute to the Documentary and the Grand Prize at the Houston Film Festival. ***Blockade*** shared honours as Most Popular Canadian Feature at the Vancouver Film Festival, and won the Red Ribbon at the American Film and Video Festival and the Silver Award at Houston, as well as many other prizes.

Nettie comes to film from a background of journalism and theatre. Her radio documentaries of the Philippine guerrilla war and the SNAP revolution which brought Mrs Aquino to power were carried extensively by CBC on programs such as ***Sunday Morning, As It Happens***, ***Morningside*** and ***Ideas***. She has worked professionally as an actress, producer and writer, and is a founding member of Vancouver's Headlines Theatre, Touchstone Theatre and Tahmanous Theatre. ***FIX*** marks the second occasion on which Nettie has shared a cinematography credit for one of her films.

BETSY CARSON

Producer

The challenge of organizing and facilitating complex film projects is an enjoyable one for Betsy Carson. Since 1989, as a producer and/or production manager, she has worked on many films, including ***A Place Called Chiapas*** (1999 Genie winner), ***Nuclear Dynamite*** (2001 Gemini winner), ***A Rustling of Leaves: Inside the Philippine Revolution***, ***Blockade***, ***Time Immemorial***, ***First Nations: The Circle Unbroken***, ***Bowl of Bone: Tale of the Swuye*** and ***The Mind of a Child*** (1997 Gemini Award winner). As well, she was Associate Producer for four years on ***Champions of the Wild (series II-V)*** a 13-part nature series, and has co-directed a dance film, ***Café Bohème***. Currently, she is in development with Gary Marcuse on a program for The Nature of Things called ***The Other Arctic***, a 15-minute dance film for CBC's Opening Night, and is executive producer on ***Say I Do***, as well as consulting producer on a number of other productions. Her specialty is documentary budgeting, with the result that one of her biggest challenges has been to learn the art of juggling numbers. Betsy has come to film management after a 17-year career as a professional dancer with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens and the Judith Marcuse Dance Co., where she was also associate artistic director., and is a founding member and Vancouver rep for the Dancer Transition Resource Centre.

KIRK TOUGAS

Cinematographer

With over one hundred and twenty-five productions to his credit, Kirk Tougas is one of Canada's foremost documentary cinematographers. Working with independent producers, broadcasters and the National Film Board, he has shot on location throughout Canada and the Arctic, in the United States and Mexico, as well as Europe, the Middle East, India, Africa, Asia and Australia. Exhibited theatrically in many countries, his work has been broadcast in Canada by CBC, CTV, TVO, Global, History and Discovery; in the United States by CNN, Discovery, and PBS; and in England by the BBC, Channel Four and ITV. Numerous international television broadcasts include France, Australia, Finland, Spain, Belgium, Austria, Germany, India, Israel, Switzerland, Norway, Holland, Japan and Taiwan. These films and videos have received over 70 international festival prizes, including Berlin, Leipzig, Toronto, Nyon, Houston, New York, Chicago, and San Francisco, an International **Emmy** award, and in Canada, ten **Genie** and **Gemini** awards or nominations. Three times nominated as "**Best Documentary Cinematographer**" by the Canadian Society of Cinematographers, he received this award for ***A Rustling of Leaves***, and, in 1996, the **Leo Award** for Best Cinematography. Among the productions he has shot are: ***The Champagne Safari***, ***Single Fathers***, ***Manufacturing Consent***, ***Gerrie and Louise***, ***Time Immemorial*** and ***The Washing of Tears***, ***Watari Dori*** and ***Obaachan's Garden***, ***The Mind of a Child*** and ***Nuclear Dynamite***, ***Blockade***, ***A Rustling of Leaves***, ***A Place Called Chiapas***, and ***Risk and Redemption: Dr Henry Morgenthau***.

REGINALD HARKEMA

EDITOR

Reg Harkema is the director of the dramatic feature ***A Girl Is A Girl***, a film best described as "High Fidelity's little brother" in its emphasis on relationships and music. It was selected for the 1999 Toronto International Film Festival and picked up for distribution by Mongrel Media. It had the longest theatrical run of any Vancouver-made feature, the following year. Reg came to directing from editing. His credits include, in addition to features by Don McKellar and Guy Maddin, Bruce McDonald's ***Hard Core Logo***, a mock documentary about an aging punk rock band and their tour of Western Canada. ***Hard Core Logo*** was recently selected by Playback Magazine readers as the 2nd best Canadian film of the last 15 years.

Having creatively conquered the area of drama, Reg decided to challenge himself to a foray into the field of documentary. In the last year, Reg has edited two feature-length documentaries. The first was ***Ice Girls***, a BBC co-production, directed by Trish Dolman. The second was acclaimed documentary director Nettie Wild's latest project, ***Fix: The Story of an Addicted City***. The filmmaking in this doc was at such a level that it may affect the outcome of Vancouver Civic elections. Now Reg wants to take on another challenge, directing a documentary. It is a challenge he has successfully met in drama. To stack the cards in his favour, he has decided to focus on relationships and music and do a tour documentary of the New Pornographers and the Gay. These eleven musicians have been in over 20 bands together and include 3 couples and sundry exes. The Gay New Pornographers Tour will follow the two bands on the brutal rock 'n roll slog through Western Canada.

DENNIS BURKE

SOUND DESIGN / COMPOSER

Dennis has worked as a composer and sound designer for film and television since 1985 with currently over 60 films to his credit. Along with being screened at many major international film festivals, Dennis' work can be heard regularly on television throughout North America and Europe. A number of these productions have received both Canadian and International awards.

Since 1976 Dennis has been a professional musician performing in concerts and at festivals throughout North America, Europe and Asia. Career Highlights include performances with many jazz legends including Mose Allison, Herb Ellis, and Ernestine Anderson, recording two critically acclaimed CDs with the Vancouver jazz ensemble Brass Roots, CDs with the Vancouver surf-rockers the Falcons, numerous programs for CBC's Jazz Radio Canada series as well as performing in a variety of R&B, New Music and musical theatre productions throughout Western Canada.

Dennis has held an Associate Professorship in the School of Media Arts at the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design since 1986 where he has developed and teaches a series of courses incorporating sound, film, art and design.

SALVADOR FERRERAS

COMPOSER

Percussionist, producer, teacher and administrator, Salvador Ferreras is the ultimate collaborator in almost every musical genre. Frequently featured on a national radio as a performer, radio host and commentator of classical, contemporary, traditional and Latin American Music, he has performed on a variety of recordings with artists such as K.D. Lang, Robbie Robertson, Raffi, Chicago, the CBC Vancouver Orchestra and Viveza, and has also released two solo recordings: ***To Drive in LA***, and ***Invisible Minority*** (1993 **Juno Award** nomination). In addition to a successful performing career, some of his other achievements include Artistic Direction of the Vancouver Folk Music Festival 1994-1995 and countless music industry events ranging from small scale festivals to international communications conferences to expositions and International Games events. Born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, with continuing education in Chicago, Caracas, Windsor and Detroit, he has studied classical music and is currently at work on his doctorate of music at the University of British Columbia, where he is also an instructor in the music department.

MANFRED BECKER

CREATIVE CONSULTANT

As editor, director, producer and writer, Manfred Becker has worked on everything from long form documentary, to dramatic series, one-hour documentary and dramatic features. Born in Germany, he studied journalism at the University of Dortmund, and came to Canada in 1983, where he began his work with Schulz Productions in Toronto, then moved on to several National Film Board productions. Among the many films and television productions that have benefitted from his talents are ***A Place Called Chiapas***, ***Obaachan's Garden***, ***Lola***, ***Johnny***, ***Breakaway***, ***The Journey***, ***Blue Murder***, ***Gerrie and Louise***, ***Hitman Hart***, ***Machine Gun*** and ***The Champagne Safari***. Between them, these productions have garnered an **International Emmy**, several **Gemini** awards, **Genie**

awards, and **Hot Doc** awards, as well as several international festival prizes. Currently working with Barna Alper Productions, Manfred has just directed and edited **Rainbow Warrior**, which will be aired in the coming months.

GARY MARCUSE

Executive Producer

Documentary Director, Producer, Story Editor. Mr. Marcuse moved to Vancouver in 1975, where he worked in community radio and television for two years., followed by ten years as a broadcast journalist, documentary writer, host and producer for CBC radio and Radio Canada International. In 1985 he turned to television and film production, as a sound recordist, producer and director of documentaries and educational video collections. He has produced more than 100 hours of network radio programs, and his educational kits include more than 100 programs adapted for use in the classroom. His most recent documentary, **Nuclear Dynamite (Gemini Award 2000)**, a co-production with the National Film Board for CBC AThe Nature of Things@, examines the Soviet-American race to adapt atomic bombs for gigantic engineering projects. His previous work, **The Mind of a Child** won nine international awards for documentary including a Gemini Canada Award. **Scanning Television**, a media literacy kit designed for classroom use, won a Gold Medal at the New York Festivals – a second series will be released this summer. He also produced the 23 part series, **First Nations, the Circle Unbroken**, a compilation of documentaries on aboriginal peoples for use in the schools distributed by the National Film Board. He has also directed nature and wildlife films for Omni Productions / Discovery Channel and a history of human rights for the Knowledge Network.

FACT SHEET FOR *FIX* THE STORY OF AN ADDICTED CITY

A Documentary by Nettie Wild
Canada Wild Productions Ltd

Personnel:

Director / Producer / Co-Camera:	Nettie Wild
Producer / Production Manager:	Betsy Carson
Executive Producer:	Gary Marcuse
Cinematographer:	Kirk Tougas
Editor:	Reginald Harkema
Sound Design:	Dennis Burke
Composers:	Dennis Burke and Salvador Ferreras

Technical information

Feature length version:	Video: 92 minutes 35mm: 96 minutes
Television version:	45 minutes (TV 1-hr)
Shooting Format:	Mini DV Colour
Release Formats:	Digibeta / Beta Sp / 35mm
Aspect ratio:	Video: 4 x 3 35mm: 1:85 Pillarbox
Audio	Video: Stereo Ch 1 & 2 / Dolby SR 35mm: Optical- Dolby SR
Closed Captioned:	Yes (on video)
Production dates:	May 2000 to July 2002
Completion date:	Video: July 15, 2002 35mm: October 15, 2002

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Distributors:

World Theatrical, TV in North America

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CREDIT LIST FOR FIX The Story of an Addicted City FEATURE LENGTH VERSION

HEAD CREDITS:

Card 1	A Canada Wild production
Card 2	FIX the story of an addicted city
Card 3	Produced by Betsy Carson, Gary Marcuse, Nettie Wild
Card 4	Edited by Reginald Harkema, Sound Design by Dennis Burke
Card 5	Cinematography by Kirk Tougas, Nettie Wild
Card 6	Directed by Nettie Wild

TAIL CREDITS

Director:	Nettie Wild
Producers:	Betsy Carson, Nettie Wild
Narration written by	Nettie Wild
Executive Producer	Gary Marcuse
Cinematographers:	Kirk Tougas Nettie Wild
Editor	Reginald Harkema
Creative Consultant	Manfred Becker
Assistant Editor	Ness Broom
Original Music Composed by:	Dennis Burke, Sal Ferreras
Sound Designer	Dennis Burke
Sound Editors	Patrick Haskill, Andre Iwanchuk
Sound Recordists:	Jeff Henschel David Hechenberger
Re-Recording Mixers	Bill Sheppard, Dean Giammarco
Musicians	Dennis Burke Sal Ferreras Robbie Steininger
Production Manager/ Post Supervisor:	Betsy Carson
Music Consultant	Velcrow Ripper
Technical supervisor	Neil Thompson

Boom	Jason Wood Jeff Carter
Production Assistants	Ness Broom Dawn Buie Bruce Hill Michelle Hignell Tallis Kirby Naomi MacDougall Bill Roxborough Patricia Williams Diana Wilson
Interns	Evelyn Pollock Ayelet Tsbari
Graphics	Rob Postma
On-line Editor:	Robert Appleby
Colourist	Tom Metzger
Archival Researchers	Paula Sawadsky Klaus Becker
Transcription	Irene Nemeth Ness Broom
Legal Counsel	Brahm Martz
Auditor	Margaret Newton & Co
Facilities	Squishbug Creative Services Inc Cinesonic Productions Inc Northwest Imaging and FX
Closed Captioning	Line 21 Media Services Inc.

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Carnegie Centre
First United Church
St Paul's Parish
BC Collateral Sales and Loan Company
Dollar Meat Store

MUSIC

"Like a Rolling Stone"
written and performed by Bob Dylan
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Courtesy of Sony Music Entertainment (Canada) Inc.

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Telefilm Canada
British Columbia Film

Executives in Charge of Production for CTV

Bob Culbert

Louise Clark

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W – a Corus Entertainment Company

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