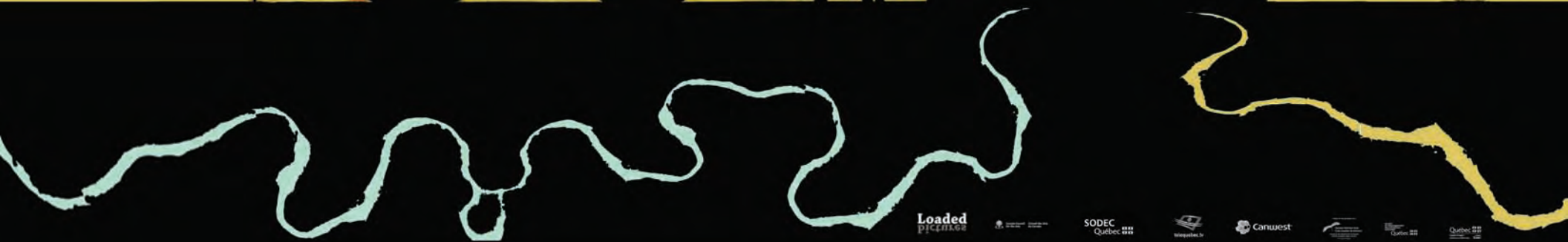


LOADED PICTURES PRESENTS 'H2O11' WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY SHANNON WALSH PRODUCED BY SERGEO KIRBY & SARAH SPRING ANIMATION BY JAMES BRAITHWAITE, DALE HAYWARD & SYLVIE TROUVÉ  
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY & ADDITIONAL DIRECTION ALAN KOHL EDITORS SOPHIE LEBLOND & ÉTIENNE GAGNON SOUND DESIGNER DANIEL LAGACÉ MUSIC BY REBECCA FOON & IAN ILAVSKY, WITH ERIC CRAVEN

# H2O11





# H<sub>2</sub>OIL

In Canada's richest province, the war for water has already begun.

It goes without saying that water -- its depletion, exploitation, privatization and contamination -- has become the most important issue to face humanity in this century. Water security will soon define the boundaries between people and countries. The war for oil is well underway across the globe. However, a struggle is increasingly being fought between water and oil, not only over them.

Alberta's oil sands are at the tension center. The province is rushing towards large-scale oil extraction, which will have far reaching impacts on water, health, animals and the environment in the region. H2Oil weaves together a collection of disparate but intersecting characters as they respond, engage, defend and seek solutions to the wavering balance between the urgent need to protect and preserve fresh water resources and the mad clamoring to fill the demand for oil globally.



## Bios

### Shannon Walsh – Writer and Director

Shannon Walsh is a filmmaker and writer who splits her time between Canada and South Africa. Her short fiction and documentary films have screened around the world from Bangkok to Rio De Janeiro at festivals such as the Brooklyn International Film Festival, Women in the Director's Chair and the Durban International Film Festival. H2Oil is her first feature film.

### Sergeo Kirby and Sarah Spring – Producers

Producers Sergio Kirby and Sarah Spring have recently completed the feature documentary *Roadsworth: Crossing the Line* (Télé-Québec/Bravo!), and the 16mm dance short *Transfert* for Bravo!FACT with the music of Kid Koala. They are currently in development on *Stealing the Spotlight*, a verité look at the power and perseverance of the unstoppable Patsy Gallant.

Sergeo is currently producing the documentary *Vanishing Currents* for Bravo!, and he produced and directed the Radio-Canada / NFB documentary *Wal-Town*, a biopic adventure story about Wal-Mart protesters. Sarah is producing and directing a fictional short about parabolas.

### Sophie Leblond & Étienne Gagnon - Editors



Sophie Leblond is an award winning editor whose works include *Elle Veut le Chaos*, *Continental* (Bayar d'Or, Namur 2007, Best Canadian first feature film, TIFF 2007), *Panache*, *Une Crabe dans la Tete* and *Un 32 Aout sur la terre*, which was a selection in Un Certain Regard at Cannes. Sophie edited Denis Villeneuve's film *Next Floor*, which won the grand prize for short films at the Cannes Film Festival.

Étienne Gagnon has worked as an editor for more than a decade on projects including the series *Contact* for Télé-Québec, current affairs programs for Radio-Canada Television, and the feature length documentaries *! Révolution !?* and *Roadsworth: Crossing the Line*.

### Alan Kohl – Cinematography & Additional Direction

Alan Kohl shot and directed the innovative feature documentary *Roadsworth: Crossing the Line*, which follows a Montreal street artist's unexpected rise to international acclaim. Alan is also working on *Vanishing Currents*, a film chronicling the extraordinary voyage of a theatre troupe embarking on their first European tour.

### James Braithwaite - Illustrator



James Braithwaite is an illustrator, animator and director who lives in Montreal Canada. James's first film, *I Met the Walrus*, won best short animated film from the American Film Institute, and was nominated for an Academy Award. James' illustration work can be found in Seed Magazine, The Believer, and many other fine publications that ought to know better. James is currently working on an animated kids show, and a board-game about death.

### Sylvie Trouve & Dale Hayward - Animation

Dale and Sylvie are an animation duo based in montreal. They've been hired by clients from around North America for their 17 years of combined industry experience and are responsible for disturbing original pieces including "The Flower".

### Daniel Lagacé - Sound Designer

Co-founder of Montreal's Studio Plateau, Daniel has been a studio engineer for over a decade and has worked on numerous music and film projects. He has worked with artists including Jorane, Memphis, and The Dears, and his film credits include *Descendent* and *Roadsworth: Crossing the Line*.

### Beckie Foon & Ian Ilavsky - Original Score

Rebecca Foon is a cellist, composer and producer. She has been a member of diverse musical projects, most notably Esmerine, Silver Mt. Zion and Fifths of Seven. Rebecca has composed, arranged, performed and/or recorded with a wide range of artists including Patti Smith, Tom Verlaine (Television), Warren Ellis (Nick Cave, The Dirty Three), Tanya Tagak, and Damian Talyor (Björk). She co-founded Madrona Records in Montréal in 2003.

Ian Ilavsky is a multi-instrumentalist, composer and sound engineer. He co-founded Constellation Records in 1997 and curated the Musique Fragile concert series from 1997-1999. Ian has been a core member of numerous musical groups, including Sofa, Re:, Silver Mt. Zion and Diebold.



# H<sub>2</sub>OIL

## Director's Statement

Like many artistic ideas, the story of H2Oil developed through a very personal encounter.

Five years ago our old friend Aaron Mathers left Montreal to build a log cabin just outside Hinton Alberta for the love of his life, Cathy Gratz.

Last fall, Aaron and Cathy made a trip back to Montreal for the wedding of a close mutual friend of ours. Under the crisp autumn stars at the wedding reception, Cathy urgently described what was happening to Alberta, and to the fresh water spring that had been in her family for generations. The water that as Canadians we thought we had so much of, she explained, was under attack by the oil and gas companies right in her backyard.

After a number of trips through Alberta to witness first-hand their story and the real impacts of the oil sands, my commitment to making this film became unshakable.

We are not alone. More and more people are realizing the urgency of protecting our water, and the people that depend upon it. It goes without saying that water -- its depletion, exploitation, privatization and contamination -- has become the most important issue to face humanity in this century. At the same time, the war for oil is well underway in the tar sands. A struggle is increasingly being fought between water and oil, not only over them. As our film bears witness, Alberta is at the centre of this tension. As the province rushes towards a large-scale extraction, the impacts on human and environmental health are hitting a crisis point.

This is a personal film and it is a political film. It is a story about real people, not abstract impacts. It is a visual story, built on the sounds and the images that are quickly diminishing in Alberta. It is not with nostalgia, but with hope, that we will attempt to make this place, and the people within it, come alive.

--Shannon Walsh



Producer Sergeo Kirby and Director Shannon Walsh with Ft. Chip resident (top) and kids in Ft. Chip (bottom) photographed by Candice Sauve.

"There are a number of us who feel this is the biggest unsustainable development on the planet right now." -- Dr. David Schindler

"The great economic boom is going to be the great economic disaster and devastation to our land and people" -- Chief Allan Adam, Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation

**Loaded Pictures** is a dynamic collective of filmmakers and storytellers. We explore the relationship between documentary as art and as a means of exchanging ideas. We are committed to making films that communicate current political, social and creative realities through innovative documentary films.

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Photo by Shannon Walsh