

Ministry of Small Business, Technology and Economic Development
Government of British Columbia

HOLLYWOOD AND DOT.COM LOVE OUR GRADS

From Hollywood big screen effects to cutting edge software, world-class media and high-tech companies are turning to British Columbia for their technical talent.

This province is the third largest centre for film and television production in North America, with everything from pre- to post-production facilities. More than 250 motion picture projects were shot here in 2008, generating in excess of a billion dollars in production spending. Visual effects studios include CIS Vancouver, with credits such as *Angels & Demons*, *The DaVinci Code*, *Twilight*, *Changeling*, *Blades of Glory*, *Tropic Thunder* and the upcoming *Invictus*.

B.C. also has a strong digital/new media sector, including companies like PNI Digital Media, which has grown by 2,134 per cent in the past five years. A new organization – DigiBC, formed in October 2009 to support the wireless, mobile and digital media sectors – represents some 1,350 companies that generate \$4 billion in annual revenues.

Today, firms in these industries are moving to B.C. in part because post-secondary institutions are producing graduates with exactly the skills they are looking for. For example:

- **Digital Domain**, a visual effects company based in Venice, California that counts *Titanic*, *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*, and *The Day After Tomorrow* among its 75-plus film credits, announced in October 2009 that it would open a studio in Vancouver early in 2010 to enable it to take on more visual effects work cost effectively and have access to the city's highly regarded digital artists. Gloria Borders, president of feature film operations who will oversee production in both Venice and Vancouver, said Canadian film schools are some of the best in the world, and the company plans to start an internship program both here and in Los Angeles.
- **Kerner**, a Lucasfilm spinoff, recently announced a partnership with Emily Carr University of Art + Design to establish a Stereoscopic (S3D) Center of Excellence in Vancouver. Emily Carr's long history in experimental film, combined with Kerner's ground-breaking 3D capture and display technology, mean that this partnership will help Vancouver develop a strong talent base and reputation in 3D film and television production. Recently acquired by Canadian entrepreneur Eric Edmeades, Kerner has a 30-year history of adding outstanding special effects to major motion pictures including the Star Wars, Indiana Jones and Pirates of the Caribbean movies.
- **Microsoft** made front-page news when it announced it would open a development centre in Burnaby in fall 2007. Within a year, 20 employees had burgeoned to more than 350 – some from B.C., others from countries around the world. Lisa Brummel, Microsoft Corporation's

senior vice-president of human resources, said that Microsoft must locate offices in areas of global talent, like Vancouver; Microsoft Canada president Phil Sorgen noted that Canadian teens have the highest digital literacy of their age group in the world.

CONTACTS

Gloria Borders

President, Feature Film Operations

Digital Domain

Arrange interviews through Tim Enstice, Publicist, 310-314-2812 / Cell 310-936-4883

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Gloria Borders is president of feature film operations for Digital Domain, a special effects company opening a studio in Vancouver in 2010. She will oversee production in both Venice and Vancouver.

Eric Edmeades

Chief Executive Officer

The Kerner Group of Companies

Arrange interviews through Jessica Dhillon, 604-970-9572

Jessica@Kerner.com

Eric Edmeades is the CEO of the Kerner Group, a special effects and 3D technology company that is partnering with Emily Carr University of Art + Design to establish a live action 3D studio in Vancouver.

Lynn Leboe

International Head of R&D for The Kerner Group

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Lynn Leboe is Kerner's International Head of R&D and spearheads research and development programs for Kerner. She recently structured a partnership between Kerner and Emily Carr to establish a 3D Center of Excellence in Vancouver.

Tochi Ezebube

Software Design Engineer

Microsoft Corp. – MCDC, Burnaby

Arrange interviews through Stephanie Bell: 416-342-1839 / Cell: 416-937-4912

Stephanie.Bell@mediaprofile.com

Tochi is a University of Victoria graduate and member of the Identity Management product group, which will be releasing the Forefront Identity Manager 2010 product next year. FIM 2010 will provide IT professionals within an enterprise with heterogeneous management of identities, credentials, resources, and policies within an organization. His team is responsible for the management of strong authentication systems, particularly as applied to the lifecycles of digital certificates, smartcards, and other user token devices.

Rahul Mittal

Software Development Engineer

Microsoft Corp. – MCDC, Burnaby

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Rahul is another UVic grad who designs and develops software for Microsoft SharePoint. He is on the Enterprise Content Management team in the Office Server Group.

WEB RESOURCES

Digital Domain

- Information about Digital Domain, including video examples of their work, how they create their special effects, and news stories about their plans to open a Vancouver studio – <http://www.digitaldomain.com/>

Kerner

- Information about Kerner, including demo reels and photographic archives – www.Kerner.com
- Raw footage of the effect work and pyrotechnics Kerner did for Terminator Salvation – http://www.fxguide.com/modules/NewsUpload/files/09Jul/ts/Kerner_T4_presentation.mov

BC Film Commission

- A profile of B.C.'s film industry, as well as a current list of movies in production here – <http://www.bcfilmcommission.com/>

Microsoft

- News release on the opening of Microsoft's Richmond centre, includes fast facts - <http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/September2008/10/c31116.html>

MEDIA COVERAGE

Example of innovative program drawing firms to B.C.

- [Market booms for digital media grads](#), Vancouver Sun, Feb. 19, 2008

Digital Domain

- [Digital Domain to open a Vancouver Studio](#), Vancouver Sun, Oct. 7, 2009
- [Digital Domain expands into Vancouver](#), Computer Graphics World, Oct. 12, 2009
- [Digital Domain adds Vancouver Site](#), Variety Magazine, Oct. 6, 2009

Kerner

- [Kerner, Emily Carr University team up to produce 3-D movies](#), Vancouver Sun, Nov. 20, 2009

Microsoft

- [Economy, talent key to Microsoft expansion](#), Vancouver Sun, Page C1, Sept. 11, 2008
- [Microsoft chooses Richmond for development centre](#), Vancouver Province, July 26, 2007
- [300 Top Software Developers Worldwide in New Microsoft Development Center In Richmond, British Columbia](#), Technology News, Sept. 11, 2008
- [Microsoft Canada Development Centre Ranked #3 \(Top Companies with More Than 100 Employees\) - Best Companies to Work for in B.C.](#), BC Business, Dec. 1, 2008

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