

Coverage and recognition from national outlets highlighting Kyle McCachen's work as a director and creative producer across documentary, thriller, and branded content.



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"A thoughtful, energetic voice in Canadian cinema." — CBC's \*As It Happens\*

"A fresh and timely look at youth political engagement."

— TVOntario (Broadcast Summary)

"His films manage to be both provocative and accessible — with stories that hit the nerve." — The Vancouver Sun

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Documentary aims to get young people into the voting booth

OTTAWA - B.C. has emerged as a key experimental ground for activists looking to improve the abysmal youth participation rate in Canadian elections. Two programs to get young Canadians to polling stations on Oct. 19 were announced Tuesday, while the third is a far grander effort involving a collaboration of three individuals who are products of the B.C. film industry who have produced a documentary.

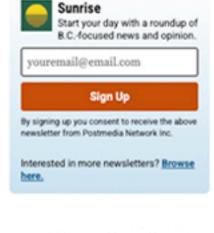
By Peter O'Neil Published Sep 07, 2015 Last updated Sep 15, 2015 4 minute read Dylan Playfair

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Two programs to get young Canadians to polling stations on Oct. 19 were announced Tuesday,



former provincial culture minister, who played a lead role in the former NDP government's efforts to introduce film industry subsidies; narrator Dylan Playfair, 23, a scrappy former junior hockey player who turned to acting after his NHL ambitions were sidelined by a concussion; and director Kyle McCachen, 29, who got his start as a filmmaker recording his own snowboarding exploits. The documentary is driven by an agenda to improve Canada's tumbling turnout rate, which was historically in the mid-70-per cent range but is now around 60 per cent. Waddell wants to bring some of the 1960s-era idealism of his generation to the youth of 2015.

The Drop, produced with a budget of \$379,000, is an hour-long documentary that is the creation of Ian

Waddell, 72, a former B.C. New Democrat MP and

"Back then we were fearing thermo-nuclear war, so we got involved in the peace movement and marches and so on," he told The Sun.

Today's youth "are fearing the end of the planet in a different way, through climate change.

"They have techniques that we didn't have, like the Internet, and they have incredible abilities

to mobilize. "We're hoping the film, if we take it to schools, will help them."

The documentary follows Playfair, son of Arizona Coyotes assistant coach Jim Playfair, as he explores the phenomenon of youth apathy starting with the B.C. election of 2013, followed by stops to Parliament Hill in Ottawa, where he puts questions to Liberal leader Justin Trudeau

and NDP leader Tom Mulcair, and later gets a distant wave from Prime Minister Stephen Harper. "When I was young, my Dad asked me if I liked driving on paved roads, having police officers to keep me safe and hospitals with doctors. I said yes and he said 'then one day you'll pay

taxes, you won't like it but you'll do it, and you will vote. If you don't you won't have the right

The other pro-voting campaigns announced Tuesday: · Kwantlen Polytechnic University political scientist Shinder Purewal, a former federal Liberal candidate in B.C., said he's prepared an assignment for students to find five youth who didn't plan on voting - and persuade them to vote. The paper they'll write on their efforts, which

will include tactics used, will be worth 10 per cent of the student's overall mark.

 Brigette DePape, the "rogue page" who was fired from her job in the Senate after holding up a "Stop Harper" sign, will lead a "Storm the Dorm" event Wednesday at the SFU Woodward's Downtown Eastside campus to encourage voting. At the event Vancouver student Matthew Heuman will promote his "Votenote" app that he developed to provide election information to

poneil@postmedia.comTwitter:@poneilinottawa STOKE show media group Itd THE DROP VOTE

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people don't vote.

Toronto in 2014.

Wheelchair bandits

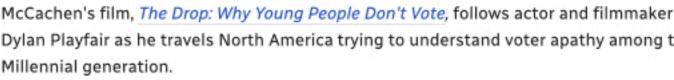
Comedy to raise funds for ALS today

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Dylan Playfair as he travels North America trying to understand voter apathy among the

they didn't have anything offer, that they couldn't change anything. "People thought, 'No, things can be better. We can do something to start spreading this message.' And using the media and using the new tools that we have today, which is

McCachen says he was also inspired by 19-year-old Morgan Baskin who ran for mayor of

really exciting, to me, I have hope that we can make things better."

As McCachen tells As it Happens host Carol Off, there are a lot of reasons why young

"So many of them were dissatisfied with the political process and perhaps think that

CALGARY HERALD

## It is funny and it's not offen-But Calgary filmmakers Kyle and sive....Or not Levi McCachen admit making a comedic bank-robbery film in which the bandits are all wheel-Really

KYLE MCCACHEN

It's tempting to trot out that

tired cliche "laughter is the best

medicine" when talking about

Disabled and Dangerous.

chair-users with Lou Gehrig's disease had them a little worried about perception. Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, as it's scientifically known, is a fatal disease with no known cure, making it an unlikely premise for comedy.

offensive," says Kyle, who di-

"There were definitely some

people who thought it would be

today at 11 a.m. as a fundraiser for the local ALS Society.

Family friend Barry Varga is blessed with a great sense of humour, but discovered in 2008 that he had ALS. He came up with the idea for the

film after his wife joked that he

and his two friends, who were all

rected the short film based on

his brother's script. "I think we

rode the line just perfectly. It is

funny and it's not offensive. . . .

Besides, the McCachen brothers

the film, which screens today at

the Globe Theatre at 11 a.m as a

fundraiser for the local ALS So-

had noble reasons for making

Or not really."

ciety.

members of a local support group, should rob a bank to raise funds for ALS. Varga's two friends have since passed away, that idea and ran with it. We laughed and laughed and

edy scenes at the ALS support meetings. It provided comedy for at least a year." Varga has known the McCachen brothers since they were children. The families would go on vacation together. So he brought

laughed at all the different com-

them his idea. The brothers put together a cast and crew in December and spent three days shooting the adventures of the dapper "ALS Bandits."

Disabled and Dangerous is a comedic bank-robbery film in which the are all wheelchair-users with Lou Gehrig's disease. It screens at the Globe Theatre but the former computer-soft-Kyle, 26, works as a creative exware worker would bring up his ecutive at a Vancouver film stuwife's idea at the meetings to dio, but also has a number indie lighten the mood. short films under his belt. "I was always the jokester, but Disabled and Dangerous, which some of these meetings were rings in at eight minutes, tells pretty tough," Varga says. "A lot the tale of a disastrous heist by of people are going through their three newbie criminals; both the own grieving process.... I took robbery and ill-fated getaway.

"These three guys try and do something just to say that they are still alive and still have the power to get things done," Kyle says. "They go into the bank to rob it and everything starts falling apart, right from the get go. They make another plan to approach the bank teller and get away with the caper. It's kind of a big mess."