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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 22, 2026

Where Heritage Meets Storytelling: Rhéo Thompson Candies Partners with MARKD Productions

STOUFFVILLE, ON – MARKD Productions is pleased to announce Rhéo Thompson Candies as a founding sponsor of its upcoming documentary project exploring the European heritage, local history, and community stories woven throughout Southwestern Ontario.

A Stratford institution since 1969, Rhéo Thompson Candies has built its reputation on craftsmanship, time-honoured recipes, and a commitment to making confections with care. The company's story reflects the very qualities at the heart of the film: the traditions we carry forward, the communities that shape us, and the people who keep meaningful stories alive.

“We're proud to be partnering with MARKD Productions on a project that celebrates the stories, traditions, and communities that make this part of Ontario so special,” says Lindsay McLeod, owner of Rhéo Thompson Candies. “Our business has always been about more than making chocolate. It's about craftsmanship, connection, and continuing a tradition that people have come to know and love. We see those same values reflected in the stories MARKD Productions is bringing to life.”

For MARKD Productions, the addition of Rhéo Thompson Candies represents a particularly fitting partnership. The documentary explores how European influences have shaped the identities of Southwestern Ontario communities, from the names on their maps to the traditions, businesses, and people that continue to define them today.

Rhéo Thompson Candies brings its own distinctive history to that conversation. Since its beginnings in Stratford, the company has continued to embrace traditional confectionery methods and small-batch craftsmanship, demonstrating how local businesses can preserve their roots while evolving with the communities they serve.

“Great stories are built by people who care about what they leave behind,” says Kevin Huhn, Co-Founder of MARKD Productions. “Rhéo Thompson Candies is a wonderful example of that. There is a real connection between the care that goes into their craft and the care it takes to tell a community's story. We're thrilled to have them part of this film.”

The collaboration will also extend beyond a traditional sponsorship, with Rhéo Thompson Candies contributing its confectionery expertise to a special element of the partnership. Further details will be shared as the project progresses.

The partnership reinforces MARKD Productions' community-driven approach to filmmaking, bringing together businesses, local leaders, historians, and storytellers to explore the experiences that connect Ontario's communities to a wider world. As production continues, MARKD Productions is building a network of founding sponsors who share a belief that local stories deserve to be told, celebrated, and carried forward.

About Europe in Ontario

Europe in Ontario is an upcoming feature documentary exploring Ontario's remarkable European-inspired destinations and experiences, celebrating the architecture, food, culture, traditions, and stories that make the province uniquely diverse.

About MARKD Productions

MARKD Productions is an Ontario-based independent production company specializing in cinematic storytelling across film, documentary, commercial, and branded content. It also partners with organizations to clarify their message, strengthen their brand, and connect more meaningfully with their audience through film, content, and strategy. For more information about MARKD Productions, visit www.markdproductions.com

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More Information
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 15, 2026

Kitchener's Historic Concordia Club Joins Documentary Celebrating Europe in Ontario

STOUFFVILLE, ON – MARKD Productions is proud to announce that Concordia Club, one of Kitchener-Waterloo's longstanding cultural institutions, has joined the upcoming feature documentary *Europe in Ontario* as a Founding Sponsor. Produced by MARKD Productions, *Europe in Ontario* will take audiences on a cinematic journey across the province, exploring the European-inspired destinations, architecture, culture, food, history and people that make Ontario such a remarkable place to discover.

Founded in 1873, Concordia Club has been celebrating German heritage, culture and community in Kitchener-Waterloo for more than 150 years. Today, the Club is perhaps best known as Canada's "Home of Oktoberfest," hosting one of the region's signature cultural celebrations. With a seating capacity of nearly 4,000, Concordia Club has established what it describes as the second-largest Oktoberfest in the world right here in Kitchener-Waterloo.

The partnership brings together two projects with a shared appreciation for heritage, culture, community and the European influences that have helped shape Ontario.

"Concordia Club is proud to support Europe in Ontario and be part of a project that celebrates the European heritage and traditions that have helped shape our community," said Rob Kerr, President of Concordia Club. "It is important to recognize the history, traditions and culture that have been passed down through generations, and we are pleased to help share that story with audiences across Ontario."

As part of the partnership, *Europe in Ontario* will feature Concordia Club through on-location filming highlighting its history, German heritage, people, culture and place within the community.

"Concordia Club represents exactly what we are looking to capture in this film," said Kevin Huhn, Co-Founder of MARKD Productions. "When we talk about Europe in Ontario, we're not simply talking about European names on a map. We're talking about the people, traditions, food, culture and communities that brought pieces of Europe to Ontario and made them part of who we are today."

Director Robert Crowley Smith added, "Independent filmmaking depends on partnerships with people and organizations who believe that local stories are worth telling. Concordia Club's support helps us bring Europe in Ontario to life while allowing us to showcase cultural heritage to audiences across the province."

About Europe in Ontario

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 7, 2026

Europe in Ontario Welcomes Downtown Kitchener BIA as Founding Sponsor

STOUFFVILLE, ON – MARKD Productions is pleased to announce that the Downtown Kitchener BIA has joined *Europe in Ontario* as a Founding Sponsor.

The partnership brings Downtown Kitchener BIA into MARKD Productions' feature documentary exploring the European roots, cultural influences and community stories that have helped shape Southwestern Ontario.

Founded by local businesses in 1977, the Downtown Kitchener BIA works to create a downtown where people connect with one another, businesses and culture. That spirit of connection makes the BIA a natural partner for *Europe in Ontario*.

As part of the partnership, MARKD Productions will create a Signature Story Film™ focused on Christkindl Market, capturing the traditions, people, atmosphere and community connection behind one of Downtown Kitchener's most recognizable celebrations. The production team will also capture interviews and cinematic B-roll throughout Downtown Kitchener for potential inclusion in the feature documentary.

"The Downtown Kitchener BIA works with local businesses and community partners to create new experiences. We connect people to our district through activities celebrating arts, culture and music. The Christkindl Market is one of our largest projects, celebrating the holiday season by creating a unique outdoor market for shopping that allows visitors to take in new sights, sounds and flavours" says Linda Jutzi, Executive Director of the Downtown Kitchener BIA.

"Christkindl Market is a wonderful example of what *Europe in Ontario* is exploring," said Kevin Huhn, Co-Founder of MARKD Productions. "It's a European tradition that has taken root here and become part of the fabric of an Ontario community."

Europe in Ontario is currently being developed and filmed across Southwestern Ontario, connecting communities, businesses, cultural organizations and local voices to explore how European influences have evolved into uniquely Ontario stories.

"We're looking at more than where these communities came from," said Robert Crowley Smith, Director and Co-Founder of MARKD Productions. "We're interested in what those roots became, and the people who continue to shape these communities today."

The Downtown Kitchener BIA joins a growing group of Founding Sponsors supporting the production.

About Europe in Ontario

Europe in Ontario is an upcoming feature documentary exploring Ontario's remarkable European-inspired destinations and experiences, celebrating the architecture, food, culture, traditions, and stories that make the province uniquely diverse.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 1, 2026

Stratford's Historic Queen's Cue Partners On New Documentary Celebrating Europe in Ontario

STOUFFVILLE, ON – MARKD Productions is proud to announce that BMI Group's historic The Queen's Cue, Stratford, a Tribute Portfolio Hotel, has joined the upcoming feature documentary *Europe in Ontario* as a founding sponsor.

Produced by MARKD Productions, *Europe in Ontario* will take audiences on a cinematic journey across the province, exploring the European-inspired destinations, architecture, culture, food, history and people that make Ontario such a remarkable place to discover.

Originally established in 1858 as the Queen's Arms Hotel, the historic property is being restored and reimagined by BMI Group as The Queen's Cue, a 31-room Marriott Tribute Portfolio hotel in the heart of downtown Stratford. The partnership brings together two projects with a shared appreciation for place, history and the stories that give communities their character.

"At BMI Group, we believe in breathing new life into historical infrastructure while preserving the stories that define local communities," said Paul Veldman, CEO of BMI Group. "The Queen's Cue has been a cornerstone of hospitality in Stratford for over 160 years. Partnering with *Europe in Ontario* gives us an opportunity to celebrate this storied landmark while helping shine a light on the rich heritage and vibrant character that make Stratford and Ontario so special."

As part of the partnership, *Europe in Ontario* will feature the property through on-location filming highlighting its history, architecture, people and place within the Stratford community.

"The Queen's Cue reflects Stratford's rich heritage and its enduring appeal as a cultural destination. We're proud to support Europe in Ontario and share the stories that connect this historic property to the identity of our city," said Christopher Smith, General Manager of The Queen's Cue.

"The Queen's Cue represents exactly what we are looking to capture in this film," said Kevin Huhn, Co-Founder of MARKD Productions. "It isn't simply a beautiful historic building. It has been woven into the social fabric of Stratford for generations. *Europe in Ontario* is about discovering remarkable places and the stories behind them, and this property embodies that spirit. We are honoured to welcome Queen's Cue."

Director Robert Crowley Smith added, "Independent filmmaking depends on partnerships with people and organizations who believe that local stories are worth telling. BMI Group's support helps us bring this to life while allowing us to showcase an important part of Stratford's history and character to audiences across the province."

About Europe in Ontario

Europe in Ontario is an upcoming feature documentary exploring Ontario's remarkable European-inspired destinations and experiences, celebrating the architecture, food, culture, traditions, and stories that make the province uniquely diverse.

About MARKD Productions

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 15, 2026

Uptown Waterloo BIA Joins New Documentary Celebrating Europe in Ontario

STOUFFVILLE, ON – MARKD Productions is proud to announce that the Uptown Waterloo Business Improvement Area has joined the feature documentary *Europe in Ontario* as a Founding Sponsor.

Produced by MARKD Productions, *Europe in Ontario* will take audiences on a cinematic journey across the province, exploring the European-inspired destinations, architecture, culture, food, history and people that make Ontario such a remarkable place to discover. Uptown Waterloo is at the heart of one of Ontario's most dynamic communities, bringing together businesses, residents, visitors, events, culture and public spaces in a vibrant downtown environment. The partnership creates an opportunity to explore the people, ideas, creativity and experiences that help make Waterloo a destination in its own right.

"We're excited to be part of *Europe in Ontario* and to help showcase the people, places and experiences that make Uptown Waterloo such a special part of the region," said Christy Bertrand, Interim Executive Director, Placemaking & Outreach Manager, Uptown Waterloo BIA. "There are so many great stories happening throughout Uptown Waterloo, and we look forward to helping connect the film team with events and opportunities that highlight the creativity, community and energy of the city."

As part of the partnership, *Europe in Ontario* will have the opportunity to capture events and experiences in Uptown Waterloo that reflect the character of the community and the people who bring it to life.

One example is Waterloo Maker Faire, which took place September 13 at Waterloo Public Square. The free, family-friendly event brought together inventors, engineers, artists, skilled tradespeople, entrepreneurs, educators, students and members of the community to celebrate creativity, innovation and the spirit of making.

"The Uptown Waterloo BIA opens the door to a different kind of story for *Europe in Ontario*," said Kevin Huhn, Co-Founder of MARKD Productions. "We're interested in more than beautiful buildings and historic places. We want to discover the people who are creating, building, celebrating and shaping their communities today. Uptown Waterloo is full of that energy, and we're thrilled to have them as a Founding Sponsor and partner in helping us discover those stories."

Director Robert Crowley Smith added, "Independent filmmaking depends on partnerships with organizations that believe local stories are worth telling. Uptown Waterloo BIA's support helps us bring *Europe in Ontario* to life while giving us the opportunity to explore the people, events and experiences that make Waterloo unique."

About Europe in Ontario

Europe in Ontario is an upcoming feature documentary exploring Ontario's remarkable European-inspired destinations and experiences, celebrating the architecture, food, culture, traditions, and stories that make the province uniquely diverse.

About MARKD Productions

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 30, 2026

From Historic Landmark to the Big Screen: The Walper Hotel Joins *Europe in Ontario*

STOUFFVILLE, ON - MARKD Productions is proud to announce The Walper Hotel, one of Waterloo Region's most recognizable historic landmarks, has joined their upcoming feature documentary *Europe in Ontario* as a Founding Sponsor.

Produced by MARKD Productions, *Europe in Ontario* will take audiences on a cinematic journey exploring the European-inspired destinations, architecture, culture, food, history, and people that make Ontario such a remarkable place to discover.

For more than a century, The Walper Hotel has welcomed visitors to the heart of downtown Kitchener while serving as an enduring symbol of the city's heritage and hospitality.

"The Walper Hotel has always been more than a place to stay. It's a place where stories begin," said Brad MacLellan, General Manager of The Walper Hotel. "Partnering with *Europe in Ontario* gives us the opportunity to celebrate not only our own history, but also the incredible destinations and communities that make this province special. We're excited to be part of the journey."

As part of the partnership, The Walper Hotel will be featured in the movie through on-location filming that highlights its history, architecture, people, and contribution to the Waterloo Region community.

"The Walper Hotel represents exactly what we're looking for," said Kevin Huhn, Co-Founder of MARKD Productions. "It isn't simply a beautiful historic building. It has been part of the cultural fabric of Kitchener for generations. *Europe in Ontario* is about discovering remarkable places and the stories behind them, and The Walper embodies that spirit. We're honoured to welcome them to the project."

Director Robert Crowley Smith added, "Independent films are built through partnerships with organizations that believe in the power of storytelling. The Walper Hotel's support helps us bring this documentary to life while showcasing one of Ontario's most treasured landmarks to audiences across the province."

About Europe in Ontario

Europe in Ontario is an upcoming feature documentary exploring Ontario's remarkable European-inspired destinations and experiences, celebrating the architecture, food, culture, traditions, and stories that make the province uniquely diverse.

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BUSINESS BACKGROUND

MARKD Productions is a leading video production company founded in 2022. The team of Matt Worthington, Alex Belke, Robert Smith, Kevin Huhn and Diego Aldana came together in 2021, during their time as classmates at Toronto Film School. Their common bond was a passion for storytelling and a vision to provide quality video content. In six months, they produced three short films that have gone on to be selected and win 35 festivals around the world.

The current partners, Robert and Kevin, believe that every brand has a unique story to tell and decided to expand their efforts by helping companies convey their narratives in the marketplace. The goal of every project is to create visually stunning and emotionally compelling videos that leave a lasting impact on audiences. The team at MARKD Productions is skilled professionals who collaborate closely to understand objectives and tailor solutions that align with their customers' goals.

With a focus on delivering excellence in their solutions, MARKD Productions has quickly gained recognition for its exceptional work in filmmaking and crafting engaging ads.

Their video production services through the Development to Post Production phases include:

- The Signature Story Film™: a handcrafted 2–3 minute cinematic brand documentary showcasing a company's brand identity, products or services to engage their audience interest.
- Training Videos: which develop educational, empowering content that also entertains to expand the audience's knowledge base.
- Testimonial Videos: where individuals shed light on important matters and first hand experiences that inspire others and bring awareness.

One of MARKD Productions' competitive advantage is the diverse age range in the ownership which helps them understand the business landscape. Coupled with a philosophy, at the core of all projects must be a good story that entertains, empowers and educates an audience, they strive to foster positive perceptions for all clients.

By harnessing the work MARKD Productions provides, businesses can elevate their brand image, connect with audiences on a deeper level, and achieve strategic objectives in this evolving marketplace.

Key Milestones

- Scripted films produced: *Hope for Christmas, I Love You Most, Athletic Withdrawal, The Package, UNTHINKABLE Appetite, LOVE Lorn.*
- Documentary films produced: *The DNA of LOVE, Teen Across Canada, Robbie G: Open Minded*
- Multiple Festival Selection & Winner for BEST SCRIPT, BEST SHORT DRAMAs and BEST SHORT DOCUMENTARYs

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ABOUT THE FOUNDERS



ROBERT CROWLEY SMITH is a tattoo artist turned filmmaker. He has been a creative for 20 years designing artistry through tattooing. At the age of 40 he decided to change canvas and returned to post secondary education with Toronto Film School in film production. His technical skills allowed him to dive into cinematography and sound design. Along with classmates he formed a production company – MARKD Productions. His passion for visual storytelling and cinematic excellence has contributed to the company's unique approach to video production. Rob's creativity and attention to detail have been instrumental to earning MARKD Productions awards such as Best Short Documentary.



KEVIN HUHN, has an extensive business background with over 30 years experience in Fortune 500 companies, small and medium sized businesses. He is the author of 2 books, *Hockey-ology* and *How to Reinvent Midlife Dreams*. After producing a TV Show, *The Hockey Source*, for NHL Network and FOX Sports, Kevin was awarded the civic recognition award from the city of Markham. In 2021, he found himself on a new path in Film Production at Toronto Film School. Along with four classmates he co-founded MARKD Productions and wrote, produced and directed short films that have won many festivals.

PHOTOS



Robert Smith



Kevin Huhn



On Set BTS: *Hope for Christmas*

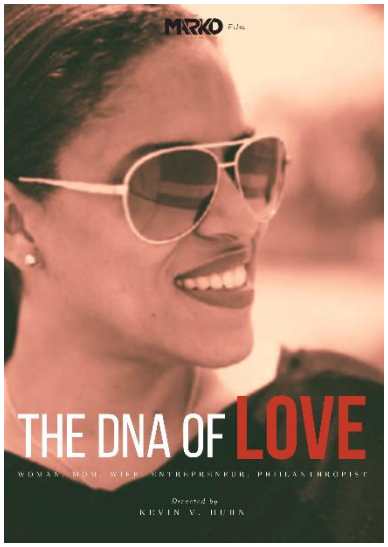


On Set Scene: *Hope for Christmas*

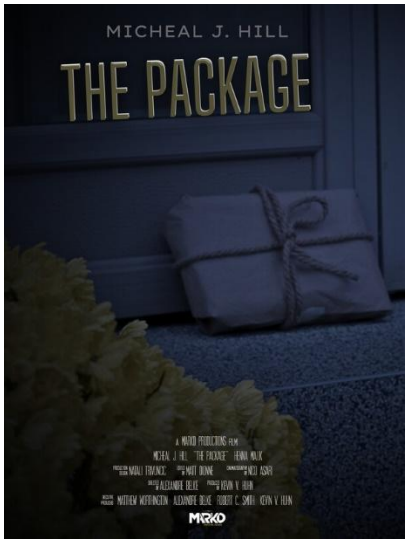


Cast and Crew on the Red Carpet

POSTERS



The DNA of LOVE
Short Documentary
Director: Kevin Huhn



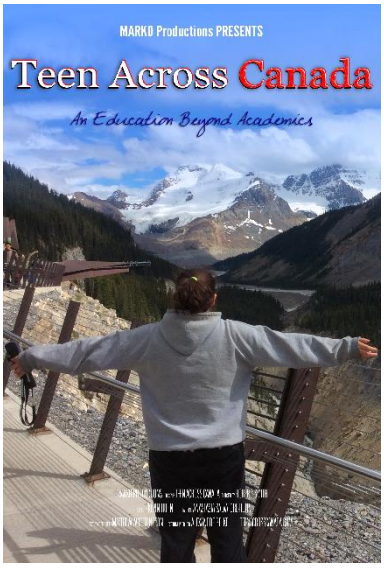
The Package
Drama Short
Director: Alexandre Belke



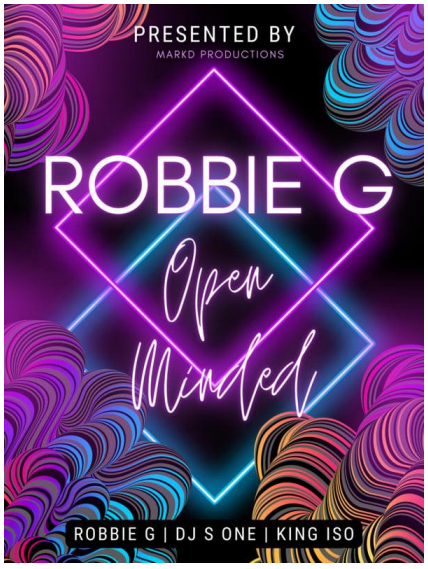
UNTHINKABLE Appetite
Horror Short
Director: Alexandre Belke



Hope for Christmas
Drama Short
Director: Alex Belke



Teen Across Canada
Short Documentary
Director: Robert Crowley Smith



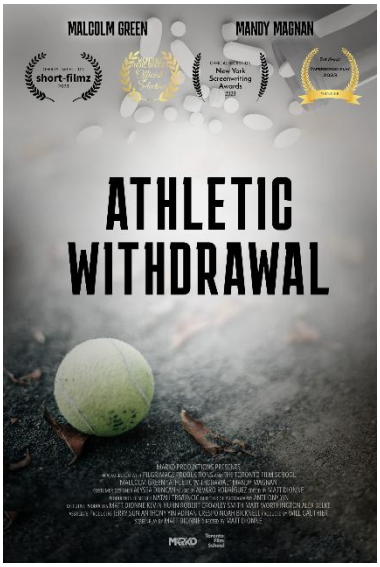
Robbie G: Open Minded
Short Documentary
Director: Robert Crowley Smith



LOVE Lorn
Drama Short
Director: Kevin Romano – Huhn



I Love You Most
Drama Short
Directors: Ayla Johnston / Karianne Taklo



Athletic Withdrawal
Drama Short
Director: Matt Dionne

TESTIMONIALS

In today's digital age, video content has become a crucial aspect of successful marketing and training strategies. Hiring a professional video production company like MARKD Productions offers several benefits. Here are what others say:

“I had the incredible privilege of working with MARKD Productions for the launch party of Maverick Health. They went above and beyond, providing over 12 hours of high-quality video footage and more than 1200 behind-the-scenes pictures, capturing the energy and essence of the event. The MARKD team worked closely with me throughout the process to ensure the final product was exactly what I had envisioned. Their commitment to excellence is evident in every project they take on. I highly recommend them to anyone looking for top-tier production services."

- Dr. David W. Harper B.Sc., D.C., F.R.C.C.S.S., FMACP, CHN

"I worked with the MARKD Productions team on a 60 second spot for my Equine Assisted Learning Business. From start to finish, the team was a pleasure to work with. Their creativity and guidance helped us put together the story that really captures the essence of my Certification program and why people choose us. The day of production was seamless, and the finished product exceeded my expectations. Thank you!"

- Tracey Evans, Owner, DREAMWINDS

"We had a wonderful experience working with your crew. You were all incredibly enthusiastic, professional and organized. We really appreciate the attention to detail and unique experience."

- Keith Saunders, Co-Owner, JACKASS BREWING

"Thank you a million for your expertise and work on these projects. You guys are truly awesome."

- Dan Blackburn, Founder & CEO, NTC HOCKEY