

*Stephen Arthur, M.F.A., M.Sc.

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Video Script Writer (informational and interpretive)



- Five years as a professional writer of educational, corporate, and training video scripts
- Author of six feature screenplays (ten years experience)
- Ten years as a professional technical writer
- Eight years directing independent short films (government commissions)
- Renaissance man holding master's degrees in both science and film production
- Director and content researcher for the National Film Board of Canada
- Writing samples at: sxa-portfolio.com

Strong interpersonal skills—from interviewing diverse subject matter experts; from mediating and negotiating with stakeholders; from showcasing technical products effectively for different audiences; as a liaison obtaining reviews and approvals; and as a user advocate.

Video script contracts

ImageMaker Advertising – New Media for the Resource Sector

Originated video scripts for several corporate documentaries. Consulted with mining company executives to effectively portray the right story to investors in mining exploration. Developed detailed content outlines and creative treatments for client approval before writing the scripts. 2005–2007

National Film Board of Canada

Developed a scientific-visualization film series for schools—*Earth Moves*, a paleogeographic time-lapse simulation in realistic 3D animation. Researched the subject matter in depth (historical geology), conducted market research, wrote the scripts, created full storyboards, evaluated production software and processes, and estimated the production budget. \$80,000 development budget. 1998-2000

"I worked with Stephen on film projects over a period of several years. Stephen was always proactive, ... a natural at both long-term planning and dogged attention to detail. I was impressed by how thoroughly he researches a subject and how quickly he becomes an expert.

"Stephen's engagement could greatly benefit an organization that is working toward establishing or improving its creative offerings. He sees many angles to the same issue... On the one hand Stephen can be a compelling storyteller, with an ear for spoken narration, while on the other hand he excels at making complicated technical subjects clear to anyone.

"...Stephen was a catalyst for consensus building and teamwork between creative and technical contributors, delivering results ahead of schedule."

-- George Johnson, 2009. Formerly: Producer, National Film Board of Canada.

B.C. Ministry of Forests

Wrote a series of ten orientation and training videos on field sampling procedures for the province-wide Resource Inventory Skills Training program (BCIT/Nutec Training/Black Tusk Video). 1995

Fisheries Council of B.C.

Wrote a training video on salmon canning (produced by BCIT - AV Dept). 1993

B.C. Cancer Research Centre - Terry Fox Lab

Wrote a training video on tissue culturing. 1992

Hillborough Resources

Wrote a corporate documentary video on mining properties (Shane Lunny Productions). 1992

B.C. Children's Hospital

Wrote a promotional video on occupational therapy (UBC Biomedical Communications). 1991

B.C. Central Credit Union

Wrote a promotional video (Vidatron Prod.). 1988

Justice Institute of B.C.

Wrote a promotional docudrama interpreting the role of the Police and Fire Academies. 1988

Bikes On Broadway

Wrote narrative copy for humorous radio commercials aired in Vancouver (Massey Productions). 1985

Education

- **Master of Fine Arts (film production)**
University of Southern California, Los Angeles
- **Master of Science**
University of British Columbia, Vancouver
- **Bachelor of Science**
University of British Columbia, Vancouver

Film directing & screenwriting

Independent Media Artist Canada Council for the Arts

Developed a proposal for a Program of Work that obtained the largest amount of funding awarded to individual media artists by the Canada Council's Creative Development Grants. Followed this with a successful production-grant proposal for *Tran Scan*, an experimental animated film. 1999-2004

National Film Board of Canada

Associate-produced, directed, and animated the award-winning NFB film *Transfigured*, based on the paintings of Jack Shadbolt. Numerous international film festivals and exhibitions. Nominated for Best Director, Animated Production, at the BC Film and Television Industry Leo Awards, 2000. 1996-1998

Screenwriter

Authored six original, feature-length, commercial screenplays. Three options to produce were sold to producers in Los Angeles (samples on website). 1980-1988

Institute of Communication Arts

Taught Writing for Film, TV, and Radio. Two 64-hour semesters.

Independent director & multimedia designer

Produced and directed five award-winning animated and experimental films, plus educational films and graphic design for UBC Dept. Education and West Vancouver Parks and Recreation (initiated while employed as a park naturalist in Lighthouse Park).

Science writing

Science World BC

Consulting Science Communicator & Journalist. Wrote stories for *That Day in Science*. 1993

Vancouver Sun / BCMA

World's Deadliest Poison Used for Revolutionary Therapies (press release for Dr. Jean Carruthers) 1992

Textbook

Originated and wrote a 400-page, college-level general science textbook with co-author Lorne Whitehead (recently Vice President Academic at UBC). unpublished

Technical writing

Impact BC—Practice Support Program, an alliance between BC Ministry of Health Services, the BCMA, and health authorities

Originated a series of training guides to help BC family physicians be proactive in managing care for patients with chronic ailments. Response was extremely positive—1,283 physicians enrolled by Feb. 2009, with a preliminary survey showing a positive impact on both patient care and physician satisfaction. 2006–2008

B.C. Hydro • BC Mineral, Oil and Gas Revenue Branch • BC Transmission Corporation • IMT Image & Microscope Technology • CHC Helicopter Global Operations • McDonald Dettwiler and Associates • Glenayre Electronics • MDSI • Richmond Fire-Rescue • Hughes Canada Systems Division • Spectrum Signal Processing • B.C. Ministry of Forests/BCIT • E-Comm 9-1-1 Emergency Communications for Southwest BC

Wrote many user guides, training manuals, and proposals for a wide range of products, services and educational topics. 1984 to 2008

Commissions, Grants, Fellowships

- Canada Council for the Arts - Production Grant to Film/Video Artist (\$55,000)
- Canada Council Creative Development Grant in Media Arts (Film) (\$20,000)
- Commission to expand independent film as NFB film production (\$50,000)
- Rotary Foundation Graduate Fellowship
- William Rea Fellowship in Television
- West Vancouver Parks & Recreation (*educational film – natural history*)

Exhibitions, Awards, Presentations, Reviews (see Media Artist resume)

<http://mypage.direct.ca/w/writer/SXA-Resume-Filmmaker.pdf>

Testimonials

www.sxa-portfolio.com/SXA-recommendations.html

Stephen has the ability to assess the needs of various target audiences, grasp technical information quickly, and produce user-friendly materials that are technically accurate and easy to read. He is very reliable, flexible, and meets deadlines. It's been a pleasure to work with him.
— Jaye Routledge, Director, Impact BC