

Resume – March 2003

**BEN LEVINE, Documentary Film Writer-Director**

*WATCHING PLACE PRODUCTIONS*

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Current Film : ***Réveil -Waking Up French*** a documentary about being French in North America: language, identity , and power in Quebec and the Franco-American Diaspora in the United States. Partial Funding : the Maine Council on the Humanities, the Government of Quebec, Ministry of International Relations, Verizon Corp. This documentary revisits the people and issues in my 1980 documentary: ***Si Je Comprends Bien...*** which explored language and power in the context of the first Quebec referendum for independence.

1980- 1995 Director , Media Source, Portland , Maine. Produced, wrote, and directed educational and cultural documentaries for non-profit, government, and corporate sponsors. Museum installations, “Between Sea and Sky” (1989) , Environmental Documentaries: “Mountain in the Sea” ( 1987), AIDS : ( 1984-88) . Winner of IFTVA Gold, Broderson Gold and Silver, ITVA Gold and Silver awards. Associate Producer of cultural documentaries , Maine Public Broadcasting.

New York Video Artist: Co-Founder - Director of Peoples Video Theater ( 1970) and Survival Arts Media ( 1973) with studios in Soho. Grants and Commissions from New York State Council on the Arts, March of Dimes, Rockefeller University, New York University Film School, and others to explore documentary applications of portable video. First broadcast of portable video tape on PBS and first cablecasting, local origination in New York. Documentaries were aired on Canadian and European Television . Recognized as a “Video Pioneer” in Michael Shamberg’s “Guerrilla Television” ( 1974) and in Exhibits at Museum of Modern Art ( 1984) . Numerous installations and performances at the Kitchen, Boston Museum of Fine Arts, Haydn Planetarium, and various universities.

Film Festivals:

- Organized Accès Cinema Africain , a French Language Immersion program with Penobscot School at Montreal’s Vues d’Afrique , African Film Festival ( 1977-2001)
- With Penobscot School, founded and run the Franco American Film Festival 1999- 2000-2001
- African Film Festival, Colby College 2000
- Curator , Film Series, Farnsworth Art Museum, Rockland, Maine 2001,2002

Teaching:

Associate Professor of Media Arts , University of Maine ( 1976-80)

International Film and Television Workshops, Rockport, Maine;  
University of Main Farmington ( 1999-2000)  
Baobab Center, Dakar Senegal 1989-91

Public Service:

SCLC (Southern Christian Leadership Conference) Civil Rights Community Organizer, Chicago, Illinois, 1966 worked directly with Dr. Martin Luther King and Reverends Jesse Jackson and Andrew Young,  
Maine Commission on the Arts - grants panel member, 1976-79  
Maine Alliance of Media Artists (MAMA) founding board member 1978  
Maine Children's Trust Fund, board member and public relations advisor- three year term appointed by Governor of Maine 1987  
Proprioceptive Writing Center, Portland, Maine , board of directors 1990-92

Awards / Recognition

ITVA Gold and Silver ( 6 in Corporate Communications), Broderson Gold (Broadcast Public Service) , International Film and Television Gold ( Science Documentary); NAGC Gold Screen ( Public Information ); MOMA ( Museum of Modern Art) Video Pioneers Retrospective, 1985& 1987 ; New York State Council on the Arts grants 1971-1976, Maine Commission on the Arts artist production grants 1976-80, Maine Humanities Commission and the National Endowment for the Humanities 1980, 1985, Subject of an article in the Maine Law Review on video in the courts, 1985; Primary subject of the Maine Times Cover Story on video , 1980. Featured in Radical Software 1970-73, and Guerilla Television by Michael Shamberg ( Norton Press) 1972. Maine International Film Festival 1998-2001. First non-Franco inducted into the Franco-American Hall of Fame, 2003

Advisory/ Panelist

National Cable Television Association, Washington, D.C. 1973  
Whitney Museum of Art, 1974  
Maine Humanities Council , 1980  
New York University , 1987  
Membre du Jury, Prix du Documentaire, Vues d'Afrique, Montreal, Quebec, (2000)

Publications:

"Alternative Television," Radical Software #2, Gordon and Breach Publishers, New York, London & Paris, 1971.

"Alternative Television II," Radical Software, Vol. 2, No. 1, Gordon and Breach Publishers, New York, London & Paris, 1972.

Yes-No/Oui-Non: Reflections on Neighboring Referenda," The Dissident, Vol. 1, #7, 1996.

"A Few Things I Learned About Her: Reflections on Quebec One Year After the Referendum to Separate From Canada," The Dissident, Vol. 1, #7, 1996.

Newspaper Articles and interviews for television on Quebec 1995-96