


*51% of young Canadian adults between 20 and 29  
still live with their parents.*

*What the heck is going on?*

**THURSDAY NOVEMBER 10, 2011 at 9 pm (9:30 pm NT)**

on CBC TV's *Doc Zone*



CMF  FMC





## “GENERATION BOOMERANG”

PREMIERES ON CBC TV's **DOC ZONE**  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2011 AT 9 PM (9:30 NT)

*More than half of 20 to 29 year old Canadian adults still live at home.  
That's double what it was 25 years ago.*

(Vancouver/Toronto) Social scientists say we'd better get used to the idea of adults in their twenties continuing to live in their childhood bedrooms, because this global phenomenon is the “new normal.” In Italy — where 70% of young adults live casa mama — they're called “Bamboccioni” – or big babies. In the UK, where one in three parents are remortgaging their homes to support adult kids, they're called “Yuckies” — Young, Unwitting, Costly Kids. In North America we've christened them “Boomerangs” for their tendency to keep coming home (if they ever left in the first place)!

**GENERATION BOOMERANG** examines why so many of today's young adults are slow to launch. The reality is that getting ahead today requires post-secondary education, leaving many young people heavily in debt. And finding a job is tough. In Canada, the unemployment rate for 15 to 24 year olds sits at 14% — double what it is for the general population. But those aren't the only reasons young adults are choosing to remain under mom and dad's roof. After a childhood of overprotection, overindulgence, over-everything, many of today's 20 and 30 somethings are finding the real world just a little too real. Why share a dingy basement suite with 3 roommates and eat macaroni, when you can live in a comfortable renovated basement and eat mom's pasta primavera? And parents? Many are just fine with the arrangement, because they consider their kids their friends and like having them around. And they are quick to come to the rescue whenever they see their offspring headed for adversity.

Is this trend a good thing or is it creating a generation of Peter Pans who will never grow up? Several experts weigh in, including Sociologist Richard Settersten, co-author of *Not Quite Adults: Why 20 Somethings Are Choosing a Slower Path to Adulthood*; Psychologist Jeffrey Arnett, author of *Emerging Adulthood: The Winding Road From The Late Teens Through The Twenties*; Social Psychologist Jane Adams, who spends much of her

time coaching boomer parents on how to deal with their adult children; and Christina Newberry, whose book and website *The Hands On Guide to Surviving Adult Children Living at Home* offer tips and advice for parents on how to establish a workable living arrangement with their adult children.

**GENERATION BOOMERANG** is directed by Sharon Bartlett and Maria LeRose, who also produced the documentary with Sue Ridout. It is narrated by Ann-Marie MacDonald. The director of photography is John Collins, editor is Chris Holmes, and the original music score is by Lesley Sutherland and Kevin Hamilton. At CBC, Michael Claydon is area executive producer and Linda Laughlin is senior producer for CBC Independent Documentaries. Mark Starowicz is executive director of Documentary Programming for CBC Television.

The film is produced by Dreamfilm Productions in association with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, with the participation of the Canada Media Fund, the Province of British Columbia Film Incentive BC, and the Canadian Film or Video Production Tax Credit Program.

**DREAMFILM PRODUCTIONS** is a Gemini Award-winning television production company based in Vancouver. **GENERATION BOOMERANG** is the sequel to Dreamfilm's documentary **HYPER PARENTS & CODDLED KIDS**, also directed by Sharon Bartlett and Maria LeRose. Other Dreamfilm documentaries include **THE DOWNSIDE OF HIGH**, which was broadcast on CBC TV's The Nature of Things and won the Gold World Medal for Best Health & Medicine Documentary at the 2011 New York Festivals. **PEACE WARRIOR**, about Canadian soldier Capt. Trevor Greene, won the 2009 Gemini Award for Best Biography Documentary, and the feature documentary **X-CARS** was nominated for a 2011 Gemini Award for Best Science & Technology Documentary. Upcoming Dreamfilm documentaries include **PROGRAMMED TO BE FAT?**, premiering on CBC TV's The Nature of Things on January 12, 2012. For more information, please visit [www.dreamfilm.ca](http://www.dreamfilm.ca).



For media access to images:

<https://mediacentre.cbc.ca/>

(Click on Photos, then CBC Television, then Documentaries, then Doc Zone)

For further information, screeners, interview requests, etc. please contact:

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**GENERATION BOOMERANG** is available for purchase for educational/organizational use after the broadcast from [www.cbclearning.ca](http://www.cbclearning.ca).



## LOGLINE

**GENERATION BOOMERANG:** Why the kids aren't leaving home!

## SYNOPSIS

**GENERATION BOOMERANG** picks up where **Hyper Parents & Coddled Kids**, the previous documentary by Sharon Bartlett and Maria LeRose, left off. After a childhood of overprotection, overindulgence, over-everything, today's young adults are finding the real world a little too real. So they're heading back home – if they left in the first place. The documentary examines the reasons why so many of today's young adults are slow to launch. A tough economy gets much of the blame — but a peek below the surface reveals that this is a generation reluctant to give up the comforts of home. Who wouldn't want to live in a place where mom cooks your favourite meals and does your laundry, where you pay little or no rent, leaving you enough pocket money to buy the latest flat-screen television for your room in the basement? Some parents welcome having their kids remain close – for others it's bye Freedom 55!

**GENERATION BOOMERANG** weaves together personal stories with expert analysis. Parents and young adults explain how this new living arrangement is working - or not working - for them. Sociologists and psychologists weigh in with differing views on whether this trend is a good thing, or whether we're raising a generation of Peter Pans who will never grow up. One thing does seem certain. For better or worse, 20 and 30 somethings continuing to live under their parents' roof is the "new normal". And we'd better get used to it, because it's here to stay.

## SHORT SYNOPSIS

After a childhood of overprotection, overindulgence, over-everything, today's young adults are finding the real world a little too real. So they're heading back home – if they left in the first place. **GENERATION BOOMERANG**, the new CBC Documentary by Dreamfilm Productions, explores how moms, dads and grownup kids are negotiating this new living arrangement that many experts believe is here to stay.



## FEATURE SUBJECTS

### PHIL HANLEY

Thirty-something Phil Hanley is not only a comedian, he's a stay-at-home son. When he's not on the road performing, he lives with his mom and dad in downtown Vancouver. He mines his living arrangement for his stand-up comedy routine about adult children living at home — a topic that touches a nerve with audiences throughout North America.

<http://www.philhanley.net/09/>



### PATRICK LERMITTE AND FAMILY

Jan and Paul Lermite of Richmond, BC have 3 adult sons. One recently married, and two others are still living at home. 24-year-old Patrick has never moved out of his childhood bedroom. He gets along with his mom and dad, and he pays a fraction of the rent he would pay if he were out on his own. It's a pretty comfy place to be while he searches for work in the film industry. 23-year-old Jeremy lived on his own for 4 years while he went to college. But when he graduated he didn't land his dream job, and he didn't want to settle for just any job so he moved back home — rent free. Mom and dad — Paul and Jan — are fine with these arrangements now. But they have no desire to share their home with 30-year-old kids, so they have drawn a line in the sand — 25 and you're out! So, the clock is ticking for Patrick who turns 25 in just 6 months.

[Paul Lermite book:](#)

<http://www.makingallowances.com/index-fs.htm>



### CALEB REYES AND FAMILY

29-year-old Caleb Reyes makes good money at a fulltime construction job, but he goes home every night to his mom's cooking. Caleb and his family immigrated to Brampton, Ontario from Guatemala when Caleb was 7 years old. It's a tradition in their culture for adult children to live at home until they are married. It's not only accepted — it's expected. Tradition also dictates that Caleb's mom does all the cooking, and housework. While Caleb contributes to the household expenses, he cannot imagine having to do cooking and cleaning for himself. But he had better get ready, because in six months he's getting married. And his new "thoroughly modern" wife does not plan on being his mother!



### **ANDREA BALZANI AND MOM VALERIA**

In Italy, 80% of 18-30 year old men still live at home. Andrea Balzani is one of those statistics. Andrea is well-launched into a good career with Italy's national bank — yet he's never moved away from the comfort of his parents' apartment in central Rome. He doesn't cook or do chores. And Andrea pays not a euro of rent. If he wants to bring a date home for the night, his parents simply move out to their second house. Mamma Valeria is happy to make sacrifices because she just loves to have her boy close.



### **ASHLEE CONERY AND MOM DIANNE NEUFELD**

After living for 8 years on her own, first as a university student and then traveling and working abroad, 25-year-old Ashlee Conery has returned to her mother's home in Vancouver, BC. One motivation for returning to the nest is that she wants to be close to her aging grandfather. The other is her 5-year plan that includes going back to university to get her Masters Degree, and buying her own apartment. She has savings in the bank but she doesn't want to spend her nest egg. Instead, she will live with mom — rent free.



### **KIRSTY DAVENPORT AND MOM PAULINE BURGESS**

In England, where one in three parents are remortgaging their homes to support adult children, 37-year-old Kirsty has returned home — for the fourth time. This time she brought her 3-year-old daughter Mia, and her two home-based businesses: children's party planning and childcare. Mom Pauline has traded in her quiet empty nest for a house full of toys and boisterous children. And she does all of the cooking and the cleaning. What's in it for her? Pauline finds comfort and closeness in living with her adult daughter and facing the world together.

Kirsty's business "Mia's Magic": <http://www.miasmagic.com/>



## EXPERTS

### **DR. RICHARD SETTERSTEN**

Sociologist / Author

<http://www.notquiteadults.com/>

Richard Settersten is a Sociologist, Professor of Human Development and Family Sciences, and Director of the Hallie Ford Center for Healthy Children and Families at Oregon State University.

He is the co-author of *Not Quite Adults: Why Twenty Somethings Are Choosing a Slower Path To Adulthood, And Why It's Good For Everyone*.



### **DR. JEFFREY ARNETT**

Social Psychologist / Author

<http://www.jeffreyarnett.com/>

Jeffrey Jensen Arnett is a Research Professor in the Department of Psychology at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts.

He coined the term “emerging adulthood,” and is the author of *Emerging Adulthood: The Winding Road from the Late Teens through the Twenties* (Oxford University Press), along with numerous scholarly articles in this area.



### **DR. JANE ADAMS**

Psychologist / Author

<http://janeadams.com/>

Jane Adams is a Seattle-based social psychologist, coach and best-selling author of several books including *When Our Grown Kids Disappoint Us: Letting Go Of Their Problems, Loving Them*

*Anyway*, and *Getting On With Our Lives*. For over two decades Jane has researched and reported on how North Americans live, work and love, and especially how they respond to social change. These days she spends much of her time coaching boomers on how to deal with their adult children.



### **CHRISTINA NEWBERRY**

Author / Blogger

<http://www.adultchildrenlivingathome.com>

When she was in her 20s, Christina Newberry boomeranged back to her parents' house twice. She wrote a book based on her experiences and created a website entitled *The Hands-on Guide to Surviving Adult Children Living at Home*. They offer detailed information on how to establish a workable living arrangement with your adult child, including tips and strategies, as well as a customizable "Under One Roof" contract and household budget calculator.



### **DR. TOMAS PAUS**

Neuroscientist

<http://www.bic.mni.mcgill.ca/users/tomas/>

Tomas Paus is an Associate Professor in the Department of Neurology and Neurosurgery and the Department of Psychology at McGill University. Dr. Paus is an expert in mapping the human brain in health and disease.



### **MARIO ADINOLFI**

Journalist

<http://www.thedailyweek.it>

Mario Adinolfi is a journalist living in Rome. He is the editor of a new Italian magazine — The Week — dedicated to lighting a fire under young Italians to become independent from their parents.

# FACT SHEET

## 1. A GLOBAL PHENOMENON - NUMBERS OF YOUNG ADULTS LIVING WITH THEIR PARENTS

In Canada 51% of young adults between 20 and 29 are living with their parents. For those between 20 and 24, the number jumps to 60%.

SOURCE: Stats Canada. <http://www.statcan.gc.ca>

In the US, 55% of men 18 to 24 are living in their parents' homes.

SOURCE: Newsweek. <http://www.thedailybeast.com/news-week/2010/03/07/the-basement-boys.html>

Italy is home to the largest number of young adults in the world still living with their parents. 70% of those between the ages of 18 and 30 still live at home (80% of men).

SOURCE: Italian National Institute of Statistics.  
<http://www.istat.it/en/>

In the UK, a recent survey revealed that 1 in 4 young adults between 20 and 30 had returned home – at least twice. 1 in 8 had returned home more than three times.

SOURCE: The Social Market Foundation.  
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-197676/Living-boomerang-kids.html#ixzz1Lzvh9hxi>

## 2. WHAT IT COSTS PARENTS TO RAISE A CHILD

In Canada the average cost to raise a child to 18 is \$200,000.

SOURCE: <http://money.ca.msn.com/savings-debt/gallery/gallery.aspx?cp-documentid=21950828>

Once a child reaches 18, parents will spend an additional 1/3 of that amount before the child is “launched”.

SOURCE: The Network on Transitions to Adulthood.  
<http://www.transad.pop.upenn.edu/about/index.html>

According to a US study, parents spend 10% of their annual income to help support their adult children, regardless of their income level.

SOURCE: The Network on Transitions to Adulthood.  
<http://www.transad.pop.upenn.edu/about/index.html>

### 3. THE FINANCIAL IMPACT SUPPORTING ADULT KIDS HAS ON PARENTS

In the UK, 6 out of 10 parents are being forced to retire later than they had planned in order to help support their 18-30 year old adult children. 1/3 of parents are actually having to re-mortgage their homes.

SOURCE: The Children's Mutual.  
<http://www.thechildrensmutual.co.uk/>

### 4. YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

In Canada, the unemployment rate for youth between the ages of 15 and 24 is 14% - almost double the national average.

SOURCE: The Globe & Mail. <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/top-business-stories/expect-canadas-jobless-rate-to-creep-higher-still/article2159845/>

### 5. BRAIN RESEARCH

Recent research from the National Institute of Mental Health in the US has revealed that young adults' brains are not fully mature until at least 25.

SOURCE: National Institute of Mental Health.  
<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/index.shtml>



Sharon Bartlett & Maria LeRose

## THE FILMMAKERS

### **SHARON BARTLETT — Producer/Director**

Sharon Bartlett, producer/director of **GENERATION BOOMERANG**, is an acclaimed west coast documentary filmmaker with over 25 years' experience producing and directing television news and current affairs, series, specials and documentaries. She was a producer for 8 years with CBC Television's flagship current affairs program **The Journal**. Among her recent credits are **Second City: The First Family of Comedy**, a three-hour documentary for CBC that traces the history of the improv troupe that launched the careers of many of North America's most famous comedians; **Desperately Seeking Doctors**, a CBC Doc Zone documentary that explores the forces at play in the current family doctor crisis, and **Hyper Parents & Coddled Kids**, a documentary about the tendency of today's parents to over-indulge and over-protect their children. Sharon has received national and international recognition for her work including a Gemini Award for Best Documentary.

### **MARIA LeROSE — Producer/Director**

Maria LeRose, producer/director of **GENERATION BOOMERANG**, is an award-winning television producer and interviewer/host. With over 25 years' production experience to her credit, she has traveled the globe as an on-camera journalist, doing interviews and telling people's stories. Her Master's Degree in Educational Psychology brings to her work a deep understanding of what makes people tick. Maria has hosted and contributed to numerous regional and network television programs including CBC Network's series **MIDDAY**. Among the hundreds of people she has interviewed are some of the most recognizable faces of our times — from celebrities like Michael J Fox and Charles Schultz (of Peanuts fame) – to world leaders like Mikhail Gorbachev and the Dalai Lama.

**GENERATION BOOMERANG** — the sequel to **HYPERS PARENTS & CODDLED KIDS** — is the latest of many TV documentaries and series that Sharon and Maria have co-produced and co-directed over the past 15 years. Both filmmakers were born and raised in Trail, B.C., although they did not meet until many years later when they were both working as broadcast journalists in Vancouver. Their collaborative credits include nine biographies for CBC Television's **Life & Times** series, including profiles of Anne Murray, Mr. Dressup, and Lynn Johnston; **Desperately Seeking Doctors**, that explores the forces at play in the current family doctor crisis; **Beyond Memory**, the story of five people living with dementia; and the four-part documentary series **Mental Illness in Children and Youth**, for Knowledge Network. Together, they co-created and co-produced the CBC Network daytime talk show series **In the Company of Women**. Their documentaries have received national and international recognition including the Columbus Festival's Silver Chris (Best of Division), the Gracie Allen Award (from the Foundation of American Women in Radio and Television), and Finalist at the International Health and Medical Media Awards (The Freddie's) in the category of Children's Health.



**SUE RIDOUT — Producer**

Sue Ridout is a Gemini Award-winning broadcast journalist and the founder of Dreamfilm Productions. After twenty years in Canadian network television, Sue started Dreamfilm in 2001 as a home for thought-provoking documentaries. Since then she has produced and directed documentaries for CBC, CTV, History, Discovery, Knowledge and other broadcasters. She won a Gemini Award for Best Biography Documentary for **Peace Warrior** (2009), a film that profiles Canadian soldier Trevor Greene as he struggles to rebuild his life after a horrific axe attack in Afghanistan. **Peace Warrior** also won Best Biography Documentary at the Yorkton Film Festival, a CINE Golden Eagle Award, second place at the Gabriel Awards, and was a finalist for the Freddie Awards. Other accolades include a Gold World Medal at the New York Festivals for **The Downside of High** (2010), broadcast on CBC's **The Nature of Things**, and a Gemini nomination this year for **X-Cars**, a two-hour documentary special for Discovery.



## DREAMFILM PRODUCTIONS

Dreamfilm Productions is a Gemini Award-winning TV production company in Vancouver that specializes in thought-provoking documentaries. Established in 2001 by broadcast journalist Sue Ridout, Dreamfilm delivers high-impact television with both journalistic integrity and strong production values. Dreamfilm is proud to be the production home of the award-winning documentaries made by the talented team of Sharon Bartlett and Maria LeRose, including *Desperately Seeking Doctors* (2008) and *Hyper Parents & Coddled Kids* (2010).

Dreamfilm's impressive roster of documentaries also includes *X-Cars* (2011), a two-hour documentary special for the Discovery Channel that delivered an audience 40% higher than normal for its timeslot (Thursday at 8 pm), and was nominated for a 2011 Gemini Award for Best Science & Technology Documentary. *The Downside of High* (2010), broadcast on CBC's *The Nature of Things*, won the Gold World Medal at the New York Festivals for Best Health & Medicine Documentary. In 2009, Dreamfilm won the Gemini Award for Best Biography Documentary for *Peace Warrior*, a film that profiles Canadian soldier Trevor Greene as he struggles to rebuild his life after a horrific axe attack in Afghanistan. *Peace Warrior* also won Best Biography Documentary at the Yorkton Film Festival, a CINE Golden Eagle Award, second place at the Gabriel Awards, and was a finalist for the Freddie Awards.

Dreamfilm's documentaries have been aired by broadcasters in the UK, Europe, Scandinavia, Australia, Africa and the Middle East. They are also used extensively by universities and community organizations throughout North America.

Upcoming Dreamfilm documentaries include *Programmed to Be Fat?*, premiering on CBC TV's *The Nature of Things* on January 12, 2012. Is exposure to environmental chemicals, particularly in utero, one of the reasons for the global obesity epidemic? For more information, please visit [www.dreamfilm.ca](http://www.dreamfilm.ca).