



TO THE RESCUE

PREMIERES
Thursday, January 16 at 9 p.m. ET/PT
on CBC Television's "Doc Zone"



A DOCUMENTARY BY DREAMFILM PRODUCTIONS
in association with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation

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CLICK ON THE PAGE NUMBERS TO NAVIGATE

Table of Contents

SHORT SYNOPSIS	PAGE 3
LOGLINE	PAGE 3
BROADCAST DETAILS	PAGE 3
LONG SYNOPSIS	PAGE 4
EXPERT BIOS	PAGE 5
PRODUCTION BIOS	PAGE 7
ABOUT THE PRODUCTION COMPANY	PAGE 9
PRODUCTION CREDITS	PAGE 10

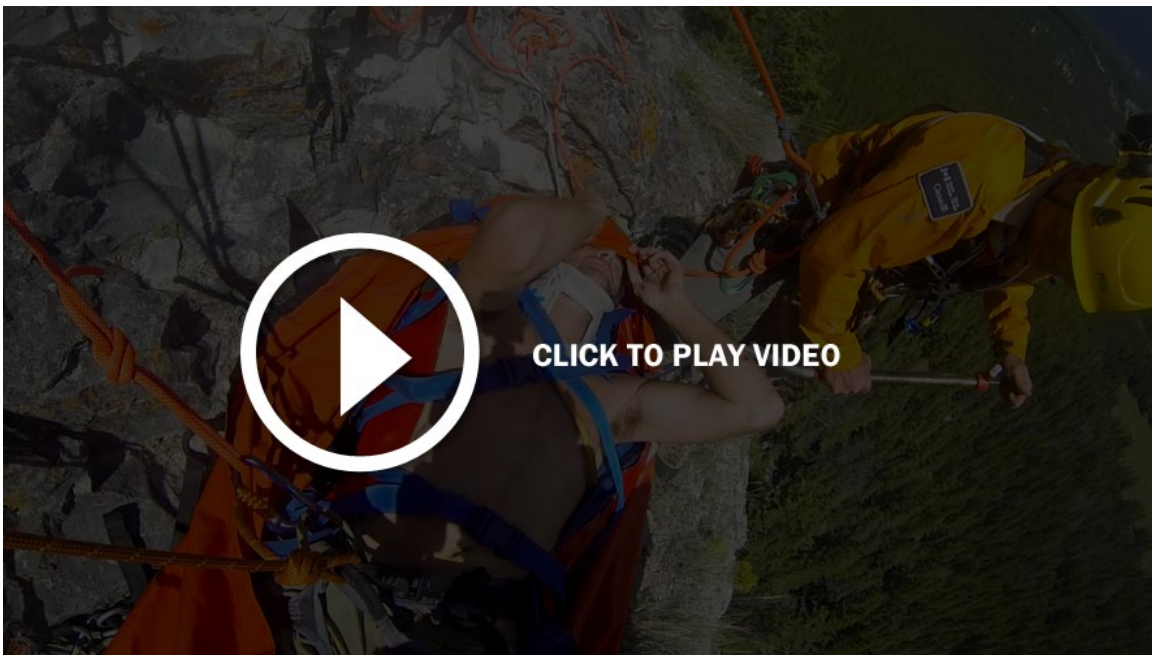
SERIES DESCRIPTION

As more urban adventurers seek outdoor recreational thrills than ever before, search and rescue (SAR) teams are pushed to the limit trying to save them from the elements – and themselves. GPS technology – and the assumption that help is just a cell phone call away – have changed the way amateur adventurers play, but the rescue system is chronically underfunded and struggling to keep up with the new demand. **“To the Rescue”** follows dramatic searches as they unfold, and finds a rescue system patched together with volunteers who constantly risk their own lives to save others. Is the over-taxed system putting out its own SOS call? A documentary by **Dreamfilm Productions**, **“To the Rescue”** premieres **Thursday, January 16th at 9 p.m. ET/PT on CBC Television’s “Doc Zone”**.

For sneak preview of **“To the Rescue”** [click here](#).

LOGLINE

“To the Rescue” goes behind-the-scenes in Canada’s haphazard search and rescue system, and finds an emergency in the making. More amateur adventurers and shrinking budgets are overloading a patchwork system held together by volunteers, who put their lives on the line with every rescue.



BROADCAST DETAILS

“To the Rescue” premieres **Thursday January 16th at 9 p.m. ET/PT on CBC TV’s “Doc Zone”**.

LONG SYNOPSIS

The search and rescue system in Canada is an emergency in the making. Ironically, the very system that should be ready to help us when we are lost or injured in the great Canadian wilderness is sending out its own SOS call.

Stretched to its limits by the combination of an increasing number of outdoor adventurers and shrinking budgets, the SAR system relies to a massive extent on volunteers. Their skill and daring are impressive, but they are putting their life on the line with every call - *and* sacrificing work and family commitments, all without pay.

Expectations of the patchwork system are also higher than ever because “weekend warriors” think they can call 911 or trigger a locator beacon from even the most remote wilderness. The traditional code of self-reliance is being replaced by a false sense of security.

“**To the Rescue**” searches for the answer to an urgent question - who’s coming to the rescue of Canada’s haphazard search and rescue system?

Several experts weigh in on the topic including Martin Shadwick, political science professor at York University; Michael Byers, Canada Research Chair in global politics and international law at the University of British Columbia; Frank Farley, psychologist, Temple University; Marc Ledwidge, Manager of the Visitor Safety Program for Banff, Yoho and Kootenay national parks; David Roberts, climber, mountaineer and author of books and articles about climbing; and Tim Jones, leader of the North Shore Rescue Team.



EXPERT BIOS

MARTIN SHADWICK

Martin is a political science professor at York University. He's also a defense analyst who says SAR is by far the largest non-military service our military provides – and arguably the most important. He's calling for the federal government to take the lead, and commission a report that takes all SAR interests into consideration, including the volunteers. He wants this to happen fast, before something disastrous happens.



MICHAEL BYERS

Michael Byers holds a Canada Research Chair in Global Politics and International Law at UBC. His work focuses on issues of Arctic sovereignty, climate change, the law of the sea, and Canadian foreign and defense policy. He has written many papers on Arctic safety and SAR. He believes we must act now to vastly improve search and rescue capability in the north because there is so much more activity through the Northwest Passage.



FRANK FARLEY

Frank is a psychologist born and raised in Alberta, now at Temple University in Philadelphia. He is interested in extreme behavior, risk-taking, thrill-seeking, and heroism. He coined a phrase in the 1980's, Type-T personality, that's used to describe thrill-seeking people. He explains why extreme adventurers do what they do - and why we should let them do it.



EXPERT BIOS

MARC LEDWIDGE

Marc is Manager of the Visitor Safety Program for Banff, Yoho and Kootenay national parks. It's the busiest rescue service in Canada, helping everyone from lost hikers to skiers caught in avalanches. Marc has played a part in more than 1,000 rescues over the last 30 years and feels very strongly that we shouldn't judge anyone who needs rescuing. He reminds us that over 90% of people rescued are just ordinary folks doing ordinary activities.



DAVID ROBERTS

David is a climber, mountaineer, and author of books and articles about climbing. He is generally acknowledged as the “dean” of American climbing literature and is also known for many first ascents, including the Wickersham Wall on Mount McKinley (now known as Denali). David wants everyone to understand that in the wilderness you must assume responsibility for your own safety and rescue. Never do anything you can't get yourself out of. He has no patience for people who rely on technology to get them out of trouble.



TIM JONES

Tim is the leader of the North Shore Rescue Team. In his paid job he is an advanced life support paramedic for BC Ambulance. Tim has volunteered with the rescue team since 1987. He is busy, day and night, with rescues, equipment maintenance, and team training and support. He is currently focused on making sure the team has ongoing stable funding to continue the high quality of rescue service that's become expected of this volunteer group.



PRODUCTION BIOS

MELANIE WOOD

DIRECTOR AND CO-WRITER



Melanie Wood is a Vancouver filmmaker who has written, directed, and produced a wide variety of documentary programs for the CBC, Knowledge, and others. Her most recent documentaries include “Foncie’s Photos,” using snapshots by one street photographer to trace a timeline through the heart of Vancouver; “Liberia ’77” (Platinum and Critic’s Choice awards, Worldfest Houston), an adventure in photography, memory, and culpability in that war-torn African country; and “Carbon Hunters,” about emerging world carbon emissions markets. Her film “School of Secrets,” about girls who were told to keep secret their sexual relationship with their male teacher, won Best Documentary at the Gracie Allen Awards, New York, and the Remi Award for Documentary, Houston International Film Festival. Melanie has also produced and directed two documentaries on the borderlands between the internet and the human spirit: “A Stranger In Our Home,” about internet child sex predators; and “O.com,” about cybersex addiction. “O.com” won awards at New York Festivals, Worldfest Houston and was selected for the Montreal Film Festival. Wood’s previous documentary credits include “To Have and To Hold,” profiling the victims of stalkers; “The Sweet Assassin,” which reveals the devastating effects of diabetes on First Nations; “On Wings and Dreams: The Men Who Built Canada’s Airlines”; and “Chasing The Cure: Brett Finlay, Man Against Microbe.”

SUE RIDOUT

PRODUCER



Sue is a broadcast journalist, director and producer who spent twenty award-winning years in network news and current affairs at both CTV and CBC Television, before becoming an independent producer and forming Dreamfilm in 2001. Since then she has directed, written and produced documentaries on a wide range of subjects, from intimate biographies to explorations of social, cultural and health issues. Of all the awards on her shelf, the most meaningful is the Gemini Award for Best Biography Documentary for “Peace Warrior,” her documentary about Canadian soldier Trevor Greene.

PRODUCTION BIOS

HELEN SLINGER

CO-WRITER



Helen is a master storyteller who began her career as a newspaper and then television reporter. After a lengthy left turn into news management, she left mainstream media to pursue her passion for documentary. Slinger's strength is her unique combination of skills. Notables from a long list of documentary directing credits: "Shadow Warrior," "Leaving Bountiful," "Mounties Under Fire," "When the Devil Knocks," "The Gangster Next Door," "Dog Dazed," and "The Condo Game." For Dreamfilm, Helen wrote and directed "Embracing Bob's Killer" as well as co-writing "Peace Warrior," "Depression: Fighting the Dragon," "Desperately Seeking Doctors," "Hyper Parents & Coddled Kids," "Generation Boomerang," "Programmed to Be Fat?," "Generation Job-

less" and "To the Rescue."

THE PRODUCTION COMPANY:

Dreamfilm Productions

Dreamfilm Productions is a Gemini award-winning film production company in Vancouver that specializes in thought-provoking documentaries. Established in 2001 by acclaimed broadcast journalist Sue Ridout, Dreamfilm delivers high-impact documentaries that tackle subject matter with both sensitivity and journalistic integrity. In just over a decade, Dreamfilm has built an impressive roster of 15 award-winning documentaries, including “The Downside of High” (2010), broadcast on CBC’s “The Nature of Things” and winner of the prestigious Gold World Medal for Best Health & Medicine documentary at the 2011 New York Festivals; “X-Cars” (2011), a two-hour documentary special for the Discovery Channel, which earned two Gemini nominations; and the Gemini Award winner “Peace Warrior” (Best Biography Documentary, 2009) which followed Canadian soldier Capt. Trevor Greene as he struggled to recover from a devastating brain injury suffered in Afghanistan. Another new Dreamfilm documentary for “The Nature of Things,” about allergies, will air in February 2014. Dreamfilm’s documentaries have been broadcast in more than 125 countries around the world, and are used extensively as educational tools in colleges and universities. Dreamfilm Productions is based in Vancouver, British Columbia.

For a full roster of productions or more information, please visit www.dreamfilm.ca.



PRODUCTION CREDITS

Directed by

MELANIE WOOD

Produced by

SUE RIDOUT

Narrator

ANN-MARIE MACDONALD

Written by

HELEN SLINGER

MELANIE WOOD

Editor

CARMEN POLLARD

Director of Photography

IAN KERR csc

Music Composer

GRAEME COLEMAN

Graphic Design & Animation

ERWIN CHIONG

Sound Design

EWAN DEANE

Location Sound

SIMON DOUCET

Story Producing

SHANNON LOWRY

SARA DARLING

Production Manager

ALISON HILL

Additional Camera

PAT BELL

TRISTRAM CLARK

JOHN COLLINS

MELANIE WOOD

Additional Sound

LEE TIZZARD

PETER WONG

FRANK INTORCIA

PAUL EDWARDS

JEFF HENSCHL

PATRICK BRERETON

Online Editor & Colorist

LORNE WRIGHT

Post-Production Supervisor

ALISON HILL

Assistant Editor

MOHAMED FADL

Publicity and Outreach

CAROLINE BUTLER

SUSAN STAFFORD

MONIQUE CAMENZULI

Production Accountant

CATARINA BENNETT

Legal Counsel

CHRISTOPHER GORA

Transcription

SCRIPTASTIC

MAUREEN RITCHIE

Additional Rescue Footage

AARON BEARDMORE

JOHN BLOWN

TODD COOPER

MIKE DANKS

CURTIS JONES

RYAN MORASIEWICZ

LISA PAULSON

JAY PIGGOT

BRAD WHITE

PRODUCTION CREDITS

JEFF YARNOLD

Archival Material:

ARCTICNET

MICHIEL BEDAUX

CHRIS BRAY & JESS
TAUNTON

THEA CAPLAN & ANTHONY
ZWIG

ALAIN COMEAU

CTV NEWS STOX

GLOBAL NEWS

JAMES HILLIER

INMOTION FOOTAGE

CHRISTIAN MORETON

PARKS CANADA: BANFF &
GLACIER NATIONAL PARKS

JORDY SHEPHERD

WHYTE MUSEUM OF THE
CANADIAN ROCKIES

FOR CBC

Senior Producer

LINDA LAUGHLIN

**Area Executive Producer,
Documentaries**

MICHAEL CLAYDON

**Executive Director, Docu-
mentary Programming**

MARK STAROWICZ

**Produced with the participa-
tion of the**



**Produced with the participa-
tion of the**



**Produced with the participa-
tion of the**

Province of British Columbia
Film Incentive BC

The Canadian Film or Video
Production Tax Credit Program



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