

THOROUGHLY MODERN MARRIAGE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 2011 AT 9 P.M.
ON CBC-TV'S "DOC ZONE"

Just Married



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DREAMFILM.CA

THOROUGHLY MODERN MARRIAGE

PRESS KIT

Thursday Jan. 20 at 9 p.m. ET/PT
on CBC Television's Doc Zone

BY DREAMFILM PRODUCTIONS

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NEW CBC DOC “THOROUGHLY MODERN MARRIAGE” POPS THE QUESTION
– IS THE AGE-OLD INSTITUTION OF MATRIMONY ON ITS WAY OUT?
ONE-HOUR DOCUMENTARY PREMIERES THURS. JAN. 20 AT 9 P.M. ET/PT ON CBC-TV

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Toronto, Jan. 4, 2011 – From Prince William & Kate, to Archie & Veronica, marriage is making headlines like never before. Yet there are more single people than married for the first time in Canadian history, due to a high divorce rate and the popularity of common-law unions. More of us are saying “Why bother?” rather than “I do”. *Thoroughly Modern Marriage* examines our most fascinating social institution and asks, is it worth saving? The new hour-long documentary premieres **Thursday Jan. 20 at 9 p.m. ET/PT on CBC’s Doc Zone.**

“Marriage is being forced to adapt to changing times,” says Sue Ridout, director and producer. “Brides and grooms are older – five years older on average than in previous generations – and more couples get settled with houses, careers, even children before they tie the knot – if they do at all. We’re at a controversial tipping point, with more Canadians who are single rather than married, and it raises the question of whether marriage as an institution has a viable future.”

Thoroughly Modern Marriage asks couples, sociologists, neurologists and historians from various parts of Canada and beyond what constitutes a modern marriage. From Samantha and Stéphane who have an open marriage, to Marjorie and Jack, a ‘very married’ couple who converted their family home into separate apartments, viewers get many perspectives on the current state of the union. The documentary also explores how geography, science and religion have a hand in making or breaking the institution.

Thoroughly Modern Marriage – produced by Dreamfilm Productions – is directed and produced by Sue Ridout and written by Dale Drewery. Story produced by Sara Darling, and narrated by Ann-Marie MacDonald. Director of photography is John Collins, editor is Tim Wanlin. Original music score by Daniel Séguin. Produced by Dreamfilm Productions in association with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. 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. Produced with the participation of the Canadian Television 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 documentary production company based in Vancouver, British Columbia. Dreamfilm’s highly acclaimed documentary *Peace Warrior*, about Canadian soldier Capt. Trevor Greene, won the 2009 Gemini Award for Best Biography Documentary. Other award-winning Dreamfilm documentaries include *The Downside of High*, *Hyper Parents & Coddled Kids*, *Desperately Seeking Doctors*, and *Embracing Bob’s Killer*. www.dreamfilm.ca

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SYNOPSIS

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The hour-long documentary for CBC-TV’s Doc Zone is directed and produced by Sue Ridout and written by Dale Drewery.

LOGLINE: *Thoroughly Modern Marriage* pops the question: is our most fascinating social institution worth saving?

BROADCAST DETAILS

Thoroughly Modern Marriage premieres

Thurs., Jan. 20 at 9 p.m. ET/PT on CBC’s
Doc Zone.

DOCUMENTARY DESCRIPTION

Can marriage modernize itself enough to win the hearts of generations to come? Or is it an out-dated institution that is slowly dying? The new CBC documentary *Thoroughly Modern Marriage* explores the current state of marriage and what the institution means today.

There was a time when the notion of marrying for love was considered frivolous and impractical. Marriage was an economic decision made to unite families for mutual profit, consolidate property or increase a family's labour force. It was often the first step into adulthood.

Today, however, expectations of marriage are far greater than they used to be. Couples want their social and economic life to be in order first, making marriage the final piece of the puzzle. The wedding itself is often a status symbol, telling the world 'I've made it.' Marriage has evolved into a multi-billion dollar industry that caters to the modern bride – a bride who is on average five years older than in previous generations, and in many cases, has already started a family.

For the first time in Canadian history, single people outnumber the married. This pivotal moment raises questions about the future of marriage. Endangered by divorce, common-law unions and a troubled economy, it is no surprise marriage is on the decline. This trend is causing proponents of marriage to rally – from the Church of England promoting marriage at bridal fairs, to voices as diverse as health economists, liberal sociologists, marriage historians, and twenty-somethings who still believe in the white dress.

To get to the heart of the matter, *Thoroughly Modern Marriage* looks at different types of couples and their beliefs about marriage – or lack thereof. From Samantha Fraser and Stéphane Goulet who have an open marriage; Julie Carlsten and Carly Savard, who took advantage of the same-sex marriage laws introduced in Canada in 2005; to Marjorie Harris and Jack Batten, a 'very married' couple who converted their family home into separate apartments, each couple has their own take on the institution.

Geography has a lot to do with matrimony as well. Original statistical research

conducted for the documentary reveals that Hanover, Manitoba, which boasts a large Mennonite community, has the highest number of married adults relative to population in all of Canada, while Joliette, Quebec – in a province that has experienced a backlash towards the church – has the lowest percentage of married adults in the country.

The film also probes the human brain to learn about the impact of love and marriage. Of three brain systems - sex drive, romantic love and attachment – scientists believe it's the third system that leads to a lasting marriage.

From experts to real couples in both urban settings and small towns, *Thoroughly Modern Marriage* presents a snapshot of the current state of marriage in Canada. What is the glue that keeps us committed to this institution? With such drastic changes over the last 50 years, will our commitment to marriage survive for decades to come?



FEATURED EXPERTS

PROF. ANNE-MARIE AMBERT

Anne-Marie Ambert is retired from the Department of Sociology at York University in Toronto. Her principal areas of expertise include family studies, poverty, health, social psychology and research methods. She has authored several books, including *Changing Families: Relationships in Context*, *The Effect of Children on Parents* and *The Web of Poverty*.

DR. LUCY BROWN

Lucy Brown is a Professor of Neurology and Neuroscience at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City. She is particularly interested in the neural basis of emotion, and collaborates on studies with Dr. Helen Fisher (below). She has published many articles on the subject and has been quoted regularly in major news outlets such as *Time Magazine*, *The New York Times*, *CNN* and *Canada AM*.

PROF. ANDREW CHERLIN

Andrew Cherlin is Professor of Sociology and Public Policy at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. He is a past president of the Population Association of America, and past-Chair of both the Population Section and the Family Section of the American Sociological Association. He received a Merit Award from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development to support his research on the effects of family structure on children, and he has been a recipient of a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship. His books include, most recently, *The Marriage-Go-Round: The*

State of Marriage and the Family in America Today and Public and Private Families: An Introduction.

STEPHANIE COONTZ

Stephanie Coontz is a historian, author and faculty member at The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington where she teaches history and family studies. She is also Director of Research and Public Education for the Council on Contemporary Families. She has authored and co-authored many books about the history of the family and marriage. Her most recent books include *Marriage, A History: How Love Conquered Marriage* and *American Families: A Multicultural Reader*.

DR. HELEN FISHER

Helen Fisher is a biological anthropologist in the Department of Anthropology at Rutgers University in New Jersey. She is also Chief Scientific Advisor to the Internet dating site *Chemistry.com*. She has conducted extensive research on the evolution and future of human sex, love, marriage, gender differences in the brain and how your personality type shapes who you are and who you love. Recent books include *Why Him? Why Her?: How to Find and Keep Lasting Love* and *Why We Love: The Nature and Chemistry of Romantic Love*.



INTERESTING STATS, FACTS AND STUDIES

MARRIAGE IN CANADA:

- 80% of Canadian women get married at some point in their lives.***
- For the first time in Canadian history, single people outnumber married people.**
- Common-law unions in Canada have more than tripled in the past 25 years.**
- Hanover, Manitoba boasts the largest percentage of married adults in the country at nearly 70% (20% higher than the national average).***
- Joliette, Quebec has the lowest percentage of married adults in Canada at just 27%.***
- Common-law partners in Quebec can split without either party having to pay alimony.**
- There has been a 33% increase in mixed race couples in Canada in less than a decade.*
- Canada was the fourth country in the world to legalize same-sex marriage.**
- 1 in 6 gay and lesbian couples took advantage of the new law within the first year of its existence..**

SOURCES:

*Statistics Canada 2010:A Portrait of Couples in Mixed Unions

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/11-008-x/2010001/article/11143-eng.pdf>

**Statistics Canada 2006 Census:

Family portrait

<http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2006/as-sa/97-553/index-eng.cfm>



***Justice Quebec

<http://www.justice.gouv.qc.ca/english/publications/generale/union-a.htm#defacto>

***From research conducted for the documentary

STUDIES - MARRIAGE AND HEALTH BENEFITS:

LOW BLOOD PRESSURE:

Researchers at Brigham Young University found that happily married couples had the lowest blood pressure levels.

<http://news.byu.edu/archive08-mar-happilymarried.aspx>

MARRIED ADULTS ARE HEALTHIEST:

According to a study released by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, married adults are healthier than divorced, widowed or never married adults.

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/04facts/marriedadults.htm>

GOOD MENTAL HEALTH:

An international study by New Zealand's University of Otago, found compared to never getting married, getting married is good for both men and women in terms of most mental health disorders.

<http://www.physorg.com/news/180084325.html>

BRAIN IMAGING RESEARCH:

A NEURAL BASIS FOR LOVE:

Dr. Helen Fisher and Dr. Lucy Brown conducted research on neural imaging that reveals brains 'in love' and brains 'in lust' look very different.

http://articles.cnn.com/2007-02-14/health/love.science_1_scans-caudate-amygdala?_s=PM:HEALTH



PRODUCTION BIOS

SUE RIDOUT – Director and 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. Now she creates documentaries for those broadcasters and many others, from intimate biographies to socio-cultural explorations to films about science and health. A recipient of the Michener Fellowship for journalists, her recent work has won awards at the Columbus, Yorkton and Freddie festivals, and in 2009 she won both the Gemini Award and the Yorkton Golden Sheaf Award for Best Biography Documentary for *Peace Warrior*, about the rehabilitation of Canadian soldier Trevor Greene. Her documentaries have been sold internationally, and are used extensively by universities and community organizations.

Sue has been the executive producer of all of Dreamfilm's documentaries including *Thoroughly Modern Marriage* (2011), *X-Cars* (2011), *Hyper Parents & Coddled Kids* (2010), *The Downside of High* (2010), Gemini Award-winner *Peace Warrior* (2009), *Desperately Seeking Doctors* (2008), *Embracing Bob's Killer* (2007), and *Depression: Fighting the Dragon* (2002).

DALE DREWERY – Writer

Dale Drewery writes and directs for a variety of TV networks including CBC, Discovery, Life, W, Oxygen, the Food Network, and Knowledge. Her awards include the Jack Webster Foundation Standard Broadcasting Fellowship, the Canadian Cultural Journalists Award, and the Roger's Communications National Media Award for Coverage of the Arts.

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 Productions delivers high-impact documentaries that tackle subject matter with both sensitivity and journalistic integrity. Through detailed and intimate film portraits, the documentaries have the unique ability to bring the subject matter to life in a relevant and touching manner. Dreamfilm's impressive roster of documentaries includes *Hyper Parents & Coddled Kids* (2010) which aired on CBC's Doc Zone; *The Downside of High* (2010), broadcast on CBC's The Nature of Things; the Gemini Award-winner *Peace Warrior* (2009) which aired on CTV; *Desperately*

Seeking Doctors (2008) and *Embracing Bob's Killer* (2007), both broadcast by CBC's Doc Zone; and Dreamfilm's first production, *Depression: Fighting the Dragon* (2002) which aired on CTV.

Numerous awards continue to solidify Dreamfilm Productions' place as a premiere documentary production company. Most recently, Dreamfilm Productions won Canada's highest television honour, the Gemini Award, 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 Productions'](#) latest projects include two new high impact films: *X-Cars*, a two-hour special that traces the journey of an automotive dream (January 2011 on Discovery Channel) and *Thoroughly Modern Marriage*, a provocative exploration of the current state of our most fascinating social institution (January 2011 on CBC's Doc Zone). Dreamfilm Productions' documentaries can also be seen in the UK, Europe, Scandinavia, Africa and the Middle East. In addition, they are used extensively by universities and community organizations throughout North America.