



PAPERNY FILMS' "CONFESSIONS OF AN INNOCENT MAN" WINS GEMINI AWARD FOR BEST BIOGRAPHY DOCUMENTARY

Toronto. Oct. 21, 2008 – Paperny Films is pleased to announce that "**Confessions of an Innocent Man**" has won the Gemini Award for Best Biography Documentary Program. The documentary examines the story of William Sampson, a Canadian and British dual citizen imprisoned in Saudi Arabia for a crime he did not commit. The film – a CTV Original Documentary and an NFB co-production – had its broadcast premiere on CTV on Jan. 19, 2008.

"It is a great honour to receive national recognition from industry peers," says David Paperny, partner, Paperny Films. "This project has been particularly close to our hearts for a long time."

Narrated by Emmy™ award-winning actor Martin Sheen, the two-hour feature documentary "**Confessions of an Innocent Man**" tells the complete narrative of the William Sampson story for the first time ever on film. The year before 9/11, the government of Saudi Arabia imprisoned and tortured engineer William Sampson for a crime that he did not commit. Forced to confess to a terrorist bombing and murder on television, he was tortured and sentenced to death by public beheading - in a country western governments call an ally. During the 31-month ordeal that followed, Sampson believes the Canadian government abandoned him and only his desperate behaviour kept him sane.

Producers of the documentary include David Paperny, Tracey Friesen, Trevor Hodgson, Terence McKeown, and Cal Shumiatcher who all share the award.

In addition to airing on CTV, the film screened at the 2007 Montreal World Film Festival, the 2007 Calgary International Film Festival, the 2007 Vancouver International Film Festival, the 2007 Global Visions Film Festival, and the 2007 Whistler Film Festival.

[Paperny Films Inc.](#) – run by partners David Paperny, Audrey Mehler, and Cal Shumiatcher – is an independent, Vancouver-based production company that has garnered worldwide acclaim for its provocative, innovative, and entertaining television programming. From groundbreaking documentaries to reality television series to lifestyle programming, Paperny Films excels in capturing the essence of human stories.

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