

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen! My name is Llyane Stanfield and I am an actor and a producer. I would first like to thank Mr. Thomas Saras, for inviting me to speak here about our cultural initiative! I am very honoured to be here, among such an amazing group.

For the sake of clarity, I would ask you to allow me to do a brief, 2 minute presentation, after which I can take any questions from the group.

I have been trained in Europe, Canada and the United States, and I've worked in community theatre, independent film and television. I moved to Canada with my son, a few years ago. In time, I came to understand the condition of the Canadian immigrant. I realized that the 1st generation of immigrants search for their new identity, often dealing with the break-up of their family; the 2nd and 3rd generations face huge hurdles in communicating with other family members; and also, artists find themselves searching for self expression in the aftermath of giving up on the craft in their mother tongue.

With this in mind, I decided to fund the Eastern-European Independent Filmmakers' Alliance. Our aim is to promote Canadian multi-cultural film internationally, through film screenings and arts festivals.

The "Night Out" series are unique events. Each promises to be an assortment of film, theatre, music and visual arts through which we seek to unveil the recognizable stylistic thread that is in each ethnic descent. Due to the fact that our mandate is to promote the artists outside of their original countries, the films showcased are in English and, occasionally, subtitled in English. We feel that this policy is an important and integral step towards market accessibility as well as towards the process of establishing ethnic artists within the Canadian cultural mainstream.

This groundbreaking approach to cinema represents the experience of ethnic Canadians of the 1st, 2nd and the 3rd generation. This is representative of a new cultural tradition which is common to new Canadians influenced by multiculturalism, Canadian culture and their own traditional heritage.

The Russian Night Out is our pilot show, produced in collaboration with NTV-Canada. It is meant to promote Russian-Canadian independent film, packaged as a complete cultural experience. This includes film, music, visual arts and an after-show dinner.

Ladies and gentlemen, there are a lot of artists and organizations that are coming together to put these evenings forward.

We are, therefore, confident that these events are newsworthy for your publications, and will grab your full readership's interest. Your support would also help to increase the awareness in your community about these events, which will benefit the audience, as well as offer exposure to emerging ethnic artists.

Thank you very much for your time!