



Karen Davis is a native Torontonian and has always worked in the Motion Picture Industry.

Karen was one of the first new employees hired by Victoria Film Services Limited when it was incorporated in 1975. She began as a receptionist, but management immediately recognized her good rapport with the customers, her organizational abilities and her willingness to take on any task or solve any problem. As a result, Karen rapidly progressed to the position of Assistant General Manager of Victoria Film Services.

In 2002 Victoria Film's business operations were sold to Technicolor Cinema Distribution. This change from working for a private corporation to being part of a large public company was very exciting and challenging for Karen as she adapted to a new business culture. She has had the pleasure of meeting many new people in Canada and the United States.

Karen became very involved with the Pioneers in 1984 when Victoria Film's president, Paul Wroe, became a Pioneer board member and Karen

volunteered to help. Before long she was involved in all Pioneer social activities. In 1988, Karen joined the Pioneers and in 1998, she received a Pioneer Ancillary Award. In 1999, she joined the Pioneer Board.

Over the years, the Canadian Picture Pioneers have greatly benefitted from Karen's energy, effort and enthusiasm. She has sold ads for the annual dinner programme book and worked on the dinner planning committee. Karen works on the golf tournament committee, particularly with Ian Shaw, to collect prizes and prepare and pack the popular Booty bags. She helps Denise James with the Booty bags for the Children's Christmas/Hanukah party. She also assists Paul Wroe on the membership committee to obtain new members.

Karen was a member of Variety Club for many years, working on the annual Telethon, the Gold Heart Campaign and the C.N.E. World's Largest Bingo.

Karen was also a member of Women of the Motion Picture Industry. She has done volunteer work for Markham Stouffville Hospital and the Hugh McMillan Centre (now Bloorview Hospital)

Karen has consistently shown through her actions, her belief that the Pioneer goals of fellowship and support can be successfully achieved by commitment and dedication.

Dianne Schwalm

Dianne Schwalm, Senior Vice President, Theatrical Advertising and Publicity for Warner Bros. Canada Inc., has spent more than three decades in the Canadian Motion Picture and Entertainment Industry. In her current position, Ms. Schwalm directs the Warner Bros. advertising, publicity and promotional activities for Canada. She also functions as a corporate liaison for Warner Bros. cultural investment activities.

Her motion picture and entertainment industry career began in 1970 where Ms. Schwalm was part of the sales department and advertising & publicity department at Paramount Pictures in Canada. She then joined 20th Century Fox in 1976 to assume the role of Canadian Director of Advertising and Publicity.

In 1980, Dianne Schwalm joined Warner Bros. as Director of Marketing and was promoted to Vice President of Theatrical Advertising and Publicity in 1990, the role she held until being appointed to her current position.

Ms. Schwalm's involvement reaches out to a number of industry-related and community organizations. She is a member of the Advisory Committee as well as a past member of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors of the Canadian Film Centre (CFC); a member of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Picture Pioneers; Co-founder as well as a member of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors of Canada's Walk of Fame; a founding member of Canadian Women in Communications (CWC); a past chairperson of Canadian Motion Picture Distributors Association Public Relations Committee; past president of the Women of the Motion Picture Industry (WOMPI); and a co-founder of the Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television's Golden Reel Awards. Ms. Schwalm has recently joined the Board of Directors of Women in Film & Television (WIFT - Toronto) and the McLuhan Multimedia Festival (M3F) a nation-wide high school media festival which helps students combine the older tradition of art with the modern traditions of technology. As well, Ms. Schwalm is a standing member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Dianne Schwalm was also instrumental in the start-up of the Canadian Living Foundation's Breakfast Club program and the establishment of Sheena's Place. Ms. Schwalm is on the Board of Directors of the Blue Jay Charitable Foundation, as well as being a past board member of Gilda's Club and the Canadian Tourettes Foundation. Ms. Schwalm recently co-chaired a Breast Cancer annual fundraiser and is a recipient of the Crystal Award from Women in Film and Television, as well as Women of Distinction Award for Mentorship from the YWCA.

On a personal note, Dianne Schwalm lives in Toronto with her husband Peter and three children, Jamie 21, Mary Beth 19 and Emily 17; and she is very supportive and actively involved in the alpine ski racing community provincially and nationally.



Robert Wales

I grew up in Oshawa, Ontario back when every theatre in the city was a single screen. My interest in film developed very early. One of my first jobs in high school was working as a film reviser in the 16mm film department of the Oshawa Public Library. In the long-gone days before video, home theatre was limited to a relatively few people who would go to the trouble of renting a movie projector and borrowing 16mm films from the library to run in their homes. After high school I decided to pursue my interest in film by studying film at York University.

After graduation I decided to check out the opportunities at a new company that was just getting started. Wolf Lamers, who was working for United Artists at the time, sent me over to a small office on Bloor St East called Cineplex.

I saw many changes over the years as Cineplex grew and developed as the industry evolved. I spent 8 years as a theatre manager and worked all over metropolitan Toronto. The merger with Odeon in later years introduced me to a whole new cast of characters, many of whom I still consider good friends. An opportunity literally fell into my lap one day when a posting arrived inviting theatre managers to apply for a junior position in the Film department. My first territories were the markets of Sudbury and Thunder Bay as well as assisting the V.P. of Film, Eric Bauman. As a theatre manager I had not had much involvement with the Pioneers and didn't attend my first golf tournament until I came into the film department. Over the years I was more than happy to attend Pioneer events and enjoy the fun, but after a while I began to notice that it was often the same people who were running them year after year. I began to think that some of these great people could probably use some extra help and slowly got more involved in the Pioneers. I don't actually remember how I ended up on the Pioneer Board but I suspect Eric and Michael Kennedy gave me a good push. At any rate, I have been on the board of the Pioneer for several years now and will continue to serve as long as they want me.

Recently I became Vice President, Programming for Empire Theatres as they began their expansion from Atlantic Canada into a nation-wide chain. I have made a whole new group of friends in our industry as well as having the chance to continue to deal with some of the great theatre managers who worked with Cineplex Galaxy over the years. Not all of them are Pioneers yet, but we're working on it !



John Xinos

Was born in Athens, Greece and Immigrated to Canada in his teens in Nov. 1959. Ten years later, married a Beautiful Blond Dutch Nurse named Maria. Soon after, they became the proud parents of 2 handsome boys, Pano and Even.

May 6th, 1961, is the infamous date that started John on his EXCELLENT ADVENTURE in the film industry. His first job was as an usher at the then Snowdon theater, owned by United Theaters and then later became property of Famous Players.

John remained with Famous Players for close to 40 years working at various positions under the guidance of such notables as George P. Destounis, Donald Drisdell, Jack Bernstein and many, many others too numerous to mention.

Even though John had his hands full with career and family, he was once the president of the Quebec Pioneers Association and most recently as the Trustee.

As of 2001, John became part of the ever growing family at Equinoxe Films under the direction of Mr. Pierre Rene and Mr. Michael Mosca where his years of experience are well appreciated and highly valued.

When John is not calling clients or demanding higher aggregates, he enjoys movies, Opera, reading, hiking, swimming and even tries his luck at a round of golf from time to time.

We haven't seen the last of him, for his journey is far from over....

