

# On Making “*A Promise to the Dead: The Exile Journey of Ariel Dorfman*”

*A Workshop with Peter Raymont  
(White Pine Films)*

12 March 2010, 12 noon – 14:30

Room LB – 1014, 1400 De Maisonneuve Blvd. W.



**Peter Raymont** has travelled the world for more than 30 years on a mission to expose injustice and incite change. As a documentary filmmaker, he has followed such humanitarian leaders as retired LGen Roméo Dallaire, and has revealed the hidden truths in politics plus social and environmental disasters. The process of making a documentary is an arduous one, but Raymont's efforts result in some of the most in-depth and thorough examinations of the important people and stories of our time. With such films as *Shake Hands With the Devil: The Journey of Roméo Dallaire*, *A Promise to the Dead: The Exile Journey of Ariel Dorfman*, *Bhopal: The Search for Justice* and *Triage: The Dilemma of Dr. James Orbinski* to his credit, Raymont has had a significant impact on shaping attitudes about personal and collective responsibility and in bringing to light the important stories the world needs to hear. *Shake Hands with the Devil: The Journey of Roméo Dallaire* won him an Emmy Award for Best Documentary in 2007. Raymont has investigated the fallout from the 1984 Bhopal disaster, the effects of the Sandinista/Contra wars of the 1980s, the impact of 9/11 on Canadian Immigration officers, and much more. As films, the stories are compelling and, in person, Raymont's first-hand account is even more fascinating. When appropriate, Raymont shares some incredible moments captured on film to illustrate his points and engage the audience. He is passionate about influencing opinion and public policy through his films and his presentations, and is careful in considering the needs and expectations of each audience. *The Border*, a CBC-TV drama series now entering its third season, is Raymont's latest project. The edgy show, which recently won a Gemini Award, features a fictional Canadian immigration and customs agency that deals with trans-border issues. Using his experience with *The Border*, Raymont can speak about international relations in the scope of awakening audiences to other cultures and ways of life. Peter Raymont believes that film is a tool for social change and a way to break down perceptions. He is an advocate for creativity in education, challenging others to create change, and global consciousness. He inspires and motivates individuals to make a contribution, to find their own path and to stand up for what they believe in. Audiences will leave inspired and armed with the tools to act on their revived convictions and interests.