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## YOUR HOST

Let's simultaneously roll our eyes and bask in the beauty that is celebrity. Canadian pop culture commentary for the sarcastically-inclined.

## ALL EARS

Have a mediocre Canadian celeb sighting? News on meth addict turned mom Jodie Sweetin? Other gossip/photos that are both tragic and hilarious? [Get in touch!](#)

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## QUICK FIX

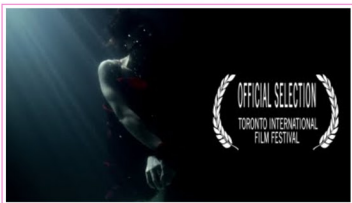
quick fix

## LIVE SHOW

[My Mother's Lesbian Jewish Wiccan Wedding](#)  
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THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2009

## Q&A: Canadian filmmaker Dusty Mancinelli



*Jessey Bird is still a journalist, communicator and quality human being, who's clearly no slouch at producing a Q&A. Ch-check out her latest outisthrough.com exclusive!*

Relatively annoyed that my Ottawa-based life is keeping me from this year's Toronto International Film Festival, I was even more frustrated when I realized an old colleague of mine had made it in to [Short Cuts Canada](#) and I won't be able to see it on the big screen.

So, I called him and asked for a screener.

[Dusty Mancinelli's](#) 15-minute film SOAP profiles Eileen, an unhappily married woman, who "finds herself in a sticky situation when she discovers her lover dead after slipping on a bar of soap." This dark but really funny and *captivating* film follows Eileen as her life begins to unravel.

Mancinelli, 23, has screened his short films at festivals across North America. He is also a photographer, and has published his work in publications throughout Canada. He lives in Toronto, works with Hamilton Mehta-Productions Inc., and is the co-owner of the production company [Info Films](#). He graduated from York University.

Here is a brief Q&A with this '80s-loving, up and coming, young, Canadian director.

Ticket packages for the festival are available at [www.tiff.net/the festival](http://www.tiff.net/the festival).

**Q: Where are you right now, while you answer these questions?**

**A:** The cool thing to say would be that I am on a remote beach somewhere with a wicked WiFi connection, but really I am in my bedroom in Toronto, which I've sort of converted into a make-shift office. This is where I do most my writing/work.

[No Doubt](#)

[Adele](#)

[New Found Glory](#)

[Dog Sees God](#)

[Altar Boyz](#)

[Canadian Music Week](#)

[Spring Awakening](#)

[Dirty Dancing](#)

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[So You Think You Can Dance](#)

[Madonna](#)

[Alanis Morissette](#)

[Ted Leo](#)

[Bedouin Soundclash](#)

[Earth Hour](#)

[Spice Girls](#)

## SUPPORTING ACTORS

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[Howard Jamieson](#)

[Jackie](#)

[Janice Wong](#)

[Jessey Bird](#)

[Renee](#)

[Seth Green](#)

[Vanessa](#)

## Q & A

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[Whit Hertford \(Part 2\)](#)

[Whit Hertford \(Part 1\)](#)

[Peak Season's Lauren Horton and Dre Morel \(Part 2\)](#)

[Peak Season's Lauren Horton and Dre Morel](#)

[Dusty Mancinelli](#)

[Said The Whale's Tyler Bancroft](#)

## MY FLICKR

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Q: When I was a kid I wanted to be a cab driver. At what point in your life did you realize you wanted to be a filmmaker?

A: Ever since I was a kid I've been obsessed with cameras. There are all these pics of me, this two-foot tall kid, holding this big, bulky over-the-shoulder VHS camcorder. I think I've always wanted to be a filmmaker, even though as a kid I didn't really know what that meant. When I was *really* young I wanted to be a Ghostbuster, but then Ghostbusters II came out and I gave up on that.

Q: Where did the idea/inspiration for *SOAP* come from?

A: I was eating a bucket of Kentucky Fried Chicken (don't judge me) and watching old Batman cartoons on TV with my friend Darby (who also cut the film) and we were pitching story ideas to one another. This was more than a year ago. Darby pitched me the one-liner: a woman's lover slips on a bar of soap and dies in her bathroom. I was really drawn to the idea and wanted to explore the choices that people make, so I told him I wanted to develop it into a script. Darby still teases me because I tend to "borrow" a lot of his ideas.

Q: How would you describe your cinematic style?

A: I am still trying to find a cinematic style that is unique to me, but I am heavily influenced by other directors who tend to push me in certain directions. *SOAP* is a really dark drama. I would say it's very similar in style to the Coen Brothers - not their quirky comedies, but their darker films, like *Fargo* or *No Country for Old Men*. Every film I make is going to be different, but I hope to develop a cinematic style one day that's recognizable and original.

Q: It seems incredible to me that a 23-year-old wrote and directed this film. Is it difficult as a young Canadian director to get your stuff out there?

A: Thanks! The thing with writing and directing is that there really isn't a corporate ladder to climb. No one is just going to give you the chance to write and direct something unless you have experience. The hardest part is just finding the time and money to make the film. There aren't too many grants available for short films so you end up having to find the money in other places - me and my friend Harry (who also produced the film) self-financed *SOAP*. After you make the film, the next challenge is getting people to want to program it at their festivals, which can be tough and very competitive.

Q: What was your reaction when you found out it had been accepted in TIFF?

A: I was at work in the middle of a conversation with someone when my cell rang. I had stored the programmer's number in my phone (the nerd in me), so when it rang and her name came up, I just became this sort of zombie. I was in this trance. I completely ignored the person in the room who was talking to me, walked out of my office and answered the phone. It felt too good to be true. It was a very rewarding feeling - the film was very difficult to make - from screaming babies, picture vehicles catching fire, shooting underwater and surprise visits from the OPP. So when I got the good news, I had that feeling that it was all worth it.

Q: So, let's say [outisthrough.com](#) creator Chris locks you in a room for 24 hours with a television and only two movies you can watch over and over again. Which two will you pick?

A: Back to the Future and Indiana Jones, Raiders of the Lost Ark. I love films from the '80s.

Q: In your early 20s, you've accomplished some things that people spend their lives aiming for. What is the goal for 30? 80?

A: I just want to keep making films and tell the stories that I want to tell and make a living off of it. By the time I am 30 I hope to have already made a feature film in Canada with a pretty decent budget. When I am 80? Well, when I am 80 I hope to own Hollywood. Wait, is that too big of a goal?