

# RED BALLOON

## DIRECTOR'S VISION

The inspiration for this project came to me in October 2018 in Busan, Korea. I was attending the Busan International Film Festival with long time friend and director Justin McConnell as our film LIFECHANGER was part of its Festival program. While we were there, Justin and I witnessed a typhoon. We sat in our hotel room and watched as rain pelted down and high winds caused destruction. As I watched how things can change in an instant it caused me to wonder, if my life ended today, what would be my one career regret? The answer: never directing anything.

After producing over 55 films in a span of 25 years and watching talented Canadian people tell Canadian stories, I decided it was time to make a passionate Canadian story of my own. Over the years I have collaborated with some amazing Canadian directors including Mike McGowan, Gary Burns, Sean Cisterna, Justin McConnell, Sarah Goodman, and Gaurav Seth to name a few. Most recently, I had an opportunity to finally work with my friend and staunch Canadian filmmaker Warren P. Sonoda. The experience of working with Warren and witnessing his fire and passion to tell his Canadian story propelled me to want to tell mine. Warren's THINGS I DO FOR MONEY was his vehicle to do it, and mine is RED BALLOON.

Witnessing the typhoon in Busan pushed me to start searching for my Canadian story, so when I got back from the festival, I posted a note on Facebook that I was looking for a short film script to direct. I received over 100 submissions in just a few days! I read them all, but RED BALLOON was the one that spoke to me most. When I read it, I cried. It reminded me of the films that I like to produce like ONE WEEK, STILL MINE and KISS & CRY. I want to affect people with this film the same way films like LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL have affected me. Through creating this film, I hope to give hope to those who are currently struggling watching a loved one with an illness.

As a father of three daughters, the relationships between the characters in this film speak to me. The goal was to make a film that is emotional and cinematic. But more importantly, I want this story to make people take a second to appreciate people in their lives and hold on tight because life can change in an instant.

