

Chatterbox #112 – Movies in Canada – Film festivals

Informal Contractions in this Episode

Informal contractions are unofficial short forms of other words, and they're usually only used in casual conversation. For example, when a native English speaker talks casually, they might say *gonna* instead of *going to*, or *whaddya* instead of *what do you*. Even though informal contractions are usually only used in spoken English, we include them in the Culips written transcripts to help you get used to how they're used and what they sound like.

These are the informal contractions used in today's episode, along with their meanings:

- **'cause**: because
- **gonna**: going to
- **wanna**: want to

Transcript

Andrew: Hello everybody. It's Andrew.

Harp: And Harp.

Andrew: And we're here with another Culips English episode. Make sure to check out the website, Culips.com, that's C-U-L-I-P-S.com

Harp: Yes. Because when you're at the website, it's the place to sign up and become a member. You should definitely become a member; because, when you're a member you have access to the learning materials.

Andrew: And in the learning materials, you get detailed explanations of some of the most important terms that we talk about. You get transcripts of everything that we talk about. And you get quizzes.

Harp: Yup. So they're great to help you improve your English even more. And remember we're on Facebook and on Twitter, so if you have any questions for us, or any suggestions please leave them there.

Andrew: Yeah. We love to hear from you so get in touch. So Harp, what's new? What did you do last weekend?

Harp: Well, I actually went apple picking with my company.

Andrew: No way. How was that?

- Harp: It was pretty cool. We organized a little trip, a **team-building** trip for everyone at work. So we all met at the office, and we had some buses, and we went to the farm. And we got to pick apples, and we had a big lunch and really good apple dessert.
- Andrew: Wow. So did you get to take a lot of apples home with you?
- Harp: I took a bag.
- Andrew: Are you gonna make an apple pie now?
- Harp: I might try, but I'll probably just eat them fresh.
- Andrew: Cool. Well, that sounds like fun.
- Harp: Yup. It was. Today we're doing a Chatterbox episode. And that's where we chat. We talk about culture, things that are happening in North America, and sometimes we interview people.
- Andrew: Yeah. Today we have a pretty interesting topic to talk about, and that is film culture in Canada.
- Harp: So we're gonna start with talking about movies that are made in Canada.
- Andrew: And then we're gonna talk about the Canadian film industry.
- Harp: And then we're gonna talk about film festivals.
- Andrew: Yeah. So let's start off with films that are made in Canada.
- Harp: You know, it's shocking 'cause there are so many movies made in Canada
- Andrew: Yeah. Recently there's just been a huge **explosion** of films that are made here, and it's actually giving us the nickname of **Hollywood of the North**.
- Harp: Yup. And so a lot of American companies are coming to Canada to make movies here because it's cheaper.
- Andrew: Yeah. That's right. The difference between the Canadian dollar and the American dollar has really made it an affordable option for American film companies to come up north and film in Canada. So that's been a really popular thing that American film companies have done recently.
- Harp: Yeah. And the government really encourages it; because, it's so good for the economy, so they're giving tax breaks to the movie industry, just trying to get them to come to Canada. And it seems to be working.

- Andrew: Yeah. And us as Canadians, we love this 'cause get the **big name** American actors coming into our cities. It's also great for jobs. Lots of people have jobs now that are focused around the film industry, whether they are actors or cameramen. So it's good for everybody up here.
- Harp: Yeah. And it's even good for restaurants because like you said, when there is a celebrity in town, people come to try to see them.
- Andrew: That's right.
- Harp: I remember when they were filming a movie in Edmonton, and Brad Pitt was in it. And I don't remember which movie, but I remember people were obsessed with trying to see him. And then there were rumours that Angelina Jolie was in town. And I think someone finally caught them in the mall, and they took pictures. And they were all over the news.
- Andrew: Yeah. Well those are some **big name** stars, of course people would get excited.
- Harp: Yeah. And they did.
- Andrew: All right. So when American films first started being made in Canada, really Vancouver was the **hot spot**, where all the movies were being made, but slowly that spread across the whole country. And now I know there's lots of movies being filmed here in Montreal, in the prairies, and really everywhere.
- Harp: Yeah. It seemed to have spread all across Canada, but definitely it's Vancouver that got it all started. Let's talk about some movies that are filmed in Canada.
- Andrew: Yeah. There are some really big blockbusters that have been filmed here in Canada.
- Harp: Yes. Like *Titanic*.
- Andrew: Yeah. *Titanic*, I think was filmed off the coast Halifax. Am I right?
- Harp: Yup. You are right. And the interesting thing about that is Halifax was actually the closest port to when the Titanic actually sunk. Interesting that's where they choice to film it.
- Andrew: Yeah. I guess it's an authentic location; it shows the actual background of where the Titanic would have been on its voyage.
- Harp: Yup. So when you watch the Titanic, you're probably seeing the water and the coast right off of Canada.

- Andrew: Yeah. That's cool.
- Harp: Another one that was filmed is that big series *Twilight*.
- Andrew: Yeah. *Twilight*. I never got around to seeing that movie.
- Harp: I've seen it. It's actually three. There's a **saga**.
- Andrew: Oh, really?
- Harp: Yup.
- Andrew: That shows what I know.
- Harp: Yup, and they were all filmed in **the lower mainland**, so really close to Vancouver.
- Andrew: Right, yeah, and I heard about that. Well, talking about the city going crazy over celebrities, I know Vancouver was going pretty nuts when the *Twilight* stars were in town.
- Harp: Yup. I thought you were gonna say their names, and I was gonna be impressed that you knew who they were, but I don't know their names.
- Andrew: Yeah. I almost took a guess at who was in the movie, but I thought that I'm not a hundred percent sure, so I'll just not say anything.
- Harp: Yeah. It's not a name like Brad Pitt that we both know.
- Andrew: That's right. There's a little bit of a **generation gap** between *Twilight* fans and us, I think.
- Harp: Yup. A little bit. More for younger people, but I've seen it.
- Andrew: Yup. So there are also tons and tons of movies that are filmed in Vancouver and Toronto, but when they're released to their American audience, the story has changed it so it appears to be an American city.
- Harp: Yup. It's not like they're trying to say that they're in Vancouver. They're using Vancouver or Toronto to pretend to look like an American city.
- Andrew: Right. So maybe when you're watching the movie, the story will take place in Seattle. And they're pretending that city in the movie is Seattle, but because we've lived in Vancouver and we're familiar with Vancouver, we go, "Ah, that's not Seattle, that's Vancouver, I know this place."

- Harp: Yeah, exactly. And one movie that I found out that did that was *Mean Girls*, which was filmed a couple years ago, and they did it in Toronto to make it look like Boston or New York.
- Andrew: Usually Vancouver is replaced as a west coast city, and Toronto is more of an east coast city.
- Harp: Yup. Exactly. So it's pretty cool that they come up here to shoot these movies, but they're pretending they're American cities. But we can always tell. We can tell the signs.
- Andrew: Yeah. We know their secrets.
- Harp: And the interesting that it's always mainly American films. We don't have a very large film industry of Canadian movies here.
- Andrew: Right. There are a lot of Canadian movies that are made, but unfortunately they're just not too popular.
- Harp: Yup. Except for Quebec. Quebec seems to have a very big industry of French language films.
- Andrew: Right. Yeah. If you're in to French movies, then there's lots to choose from.
- Harp: And actually a lot of them have been nominated for Oscars, so they're pretty good movies.
- Andrew: Yeah.
- Harp: OK. Let's move on to the next topic of the film industry.
- Andrew: Sure. So like we were saying, there's a lot of films that have been made in Canada. But there's also a huge industry that has grown up around these films that are being made. So it's not just Americans coming into Canada quickly for a couple of months, making their movie and then going home, but really we've developed a whole industry that's permanent in Canada now based upon on this demand to make movies here.
- Harp: Yeah. There's editing studios here. There are special effects studios. There are so many people here specialized in the movie industry to do the post production work.
- Andrew: And there's also a lot of film schools in Canada, and they have pretty good reputations, because there's so much opportunity for students to get jobs on film sets working as producers and assistants that it is a really great place for students to study film.

- Harp: Yeah. Especially in Vancouver who are in the film industry now and went to some of the schools there, and they're doing great. There's a lot of work and I actually have one friend who recently entered a competition. It's called the Crazy 8s. Have you ever heard of it?
- Andrew: No. What's the Crazy 8s?
- Harp: So you have to submit an idea, a film idea, and then you submit it to a board of judges, and they'll select the best ones. Then they give you funding, and you have 8 days to shoot it.
- Andrew: Only 8 days.
- Harp: It's a short film, I don't know how long exactly, but it's intense. And then judge the films after that, and then there's a winner. And I don't know where the process is right now, but apparently a lot of the people who have won this competition become really big Hollywood directors.
- Andrew: Wow. That sounds like it would be a really good creative challenge. I think I would like to be in a contest like that.
- Harp: Yeah. He loved it. He was posting on Facebook all the time about of the end of the day, and he was posting pictures from the film shoot. It was pretty cool.
- Andrew: Yeah, that looks really cool.
- Harp: Yeah. I'm excited to see what the end result is.
- Andrew: Do they put the winners on the Internet? Do you know?
- Harp: They do. But it hasn't come out yet.
- Andrew: OK.
- Harp: But I'll definitely post a link when it's all available.
- Andrew: Yeah. I'd like to see. So a lot of people are very curious about film sets when they see them. I know I was riding my bike through Montreal the other day and I saw a film set. And I definitely slowed down to check out what was happening.
- Harp: Yeah. It's so interesting 'cause it always seems like there's so much going on. And like you said there are a lot of films being made in Montreal. So, I've seen it often, and I always stop and see if there's any celebrities and see what they're doing.
- Andrew: And there's always a crowd of people around to check it out.

- Harp: Yeah. Always. They made a movie really close to here. It was a small movie, but I stopped for a good hour to see what they were doing. It was cool.
- Andrew: Yeah. And I think always in **the back of your mind**, if you're hanging out around a film set, you're kind of wishing and hoping that the director will see you and say, "Hey, you! Do you wanna be in my movie?"
- Harp: Yeah. To be an **extra** in a movie, for sure. I was maybe hoping that that day when I was watching them.
- Andrew: Yeah. And I know that that's another way that a lot of other people are involved in the Canadian film industry is by acting as **extras**.
- Harp: Yeah. It seems like there is quite a big industry for that. I know some people who have been **extras**. Usually you have to wait all day though, and they choose if they want you in there. And then you're standing around and waiting, so I'm not sure if I would want to do it.
- Andrew: Yeah. It's not the most exciting job, and even if you're selected to be an **extra**, you probably won't get that much time in the movie, maybe just a couple of seconds of on-screen time, but I don't know. I think it could be a cool experience to see yourself on the big screen.
- Harp: Yeah that's true, especially if there were some famous celebrities in the same scene, and you watch yourself on TV or in the movie theatre. That would be cool.
- Andrew: Yeah. That would be super cool.
- Harp: Let's move on to our last topic, which is film festivals.
- Andrew: Yeah. And I would say maybe over the last decade or so there have been some Canadian film festivals that have really started to get a lot of international attention.
- Harp: Yup. The one that comes to my mind is **TIFF**.
- Andrew: Yeah. **TIFF**: the Toronto International Film Festival.
- Harp: Yeah. It's huge. A lot of celebrities go. They premier a lot of cool movies. It's really big, and it's all about fashion and the red carpet, and it's pretty cool.
- Andrew: Yeah. And it's a big deal if you're in Canada. Everybody talks about it, even if you're not in Toronto.

- Harp: Yup. That's true. It's always on the news, and they're talking about how the film was received, or who was seen at the movie, or who was seen in Toronto.
- Andrew: Yeah. Now I've never lived or been in Toronto at the same time as **TIFF** is happening, have you?
- Harp: Nope, I haven't. But I have a friend who goes every year and he said it's becoming bigger and bigger. And it's really exciting 'cause there's just a good energy in the air. People are really excited about it, and there are a lot of really cool movies that get shown there.
- Andrew: I'd love to go sometime. And yeah, I know that they do premiere a lot of really cool films now, especially a lot of the **indie films** get premiered at **TIFF**. Usually those are the types of films I like to watch.
- Harp: Yeah. Exactly, they're not doing most of the blockbusters that you see.
- Andrew: Right.
- Harp: It's more the **indie films**, the smaller films.
- Andrew: Yeah. The ones that are harder to see sometimes in theatres, so it would be really cool to check out **TIFF**.
- Harp: Yes. I agree. We should try to go one year. Do a road trip.
- Andrew: Culips road trip to the film festival. Good idea.
- Harp: Yeah. Maybe we could try to interview a celebrity, you never know.
- Andrew: Yeah.
- Harp: Do you go to a lot of film festivals?
- Andrew: Well, in Montreal, I actually haven't had the time. Although there is a lot of film festivals here, I haven't had the time to see any. But when I was a student in Victoria at the University of Victoria, I had more time, and there were a lot of film festivals in Victoria. So yeah, I checked them out whenever they were in town.
- Harp: Cool. Yeah. I've been to actually a couple of them here in Montreal, and it's cool. It's fun to see the different types of festivals. So they usually have a theme, like a world film festival, or fantasia film festival, so you see a lot of different types of films in one festival.

- Andrew: Yeah. There was actually an Asian film festival not too long ago, and there was a couple of Korean movies that I really wanted to go see, but I just couldn't spare the time to see them. But there are some sort of speciality festivals in Montreal, and actually those were the types that I would go to in Victoria as well. There was an environmental film festival that I saw one time and a sports film festival. And so you get to see some movies that you probably wouldn't be able to see regularly at these specialized festivals. It's a great way to be exposed to some new ideas and new films.
- Harp: Yeah. You're right. And it's cool how they have if you're interested in one theme, you can see a lot of different films in that theme. Now speaking about Montreal and how many film festivals there are here. I was doing some research and there is almost a different film festival in each month.
- Andrew: No way.
- Harp: There are so many film festivals that happen here. We have our own international film festival, which isn't as big as the Toronto one, but it's still pretty big.
- Andrew: Yup.
- Harp: We have the *Festival du Nouveau Cinema*, which is new cinema, new movies.
- Andrew: New releases.
- Harp: Yup. And we even have a children's film festival. We have so many different types.
- Andrew: I was riding my bike through the park the other day, and I saw something that was really cool, which was that they were showing a movie outside. So this was a film festival where they showed the movie outside in the park, so you could just go in the early evening. It's not cold. It's not dark. And you can sit in the park with friends and watch a movie outside for free.
- Harp: Wow. Screening a movie in a park, that's super cool.
- Andrew: Yeah. Have you ever tried to watch a movie outside?
- Harp: No. I've never been to a drive-in; I've never seen a movie outside.
- Andrew: Well, you have to try it, next year when this festival's in town, go check it out.

- Harp: I will for sure. You know the thing I always think about when I think about film festivals in Montreal, is I used to work near a theatre, which was part of almost every film festival in Montreal. And they always had the red carpet out and celebrities and there was always a lot of media, such a fun event.
- Andrew: Yeah. That's super cool.
- Harp: OK. Well let's do a quick recap today. First, we started talking about films that are made in Canada.
- Andrew: And then we talked about the Canadian film industry and all of the jobs that have **popped up**.
- Harp: Yup. And then we talked about some film festivals and how **TIFF** is really big, and some different festivals in Montreal.
- Andrew: That's right, so I think that about does it for today's episode, thanks for listening, make sure to check our website at Culips.com.
- Harp: C-U-L-I-P-S.com because when you're there, you should sign up and become a member. You get access to the learning materials, and it's just great.
- Andrew: And don't forget to get in touch with us through Facebook or Twitter.
- Harp: That's it for us. Bye everyone.
- Andrew: Bye bye.

Detailed Explanation

Team-building

Team-building is an expression used in relation to a job or employment. It is used to describe an exercise or event that is intended to bring employees closer together. A **team-building** exercise can create friendships and strengthen the way employees interact with each other. A **team-building exercise** can have nothing to do with your actual job, (like Harp's apple-picking trip she went on with her colleagues), or it can be directly related to your occupation. Usually, though, the **team-building** exercise focuses on building trust and understanding between employees, and it doesn't focus on the actual job those employees do day-to-day.

Here is another example of **team-building**:

Jean: How was your day at work?

Chipan: Interesting. We had a **team-building** exercise today.

Jean: Oh, really? What did you do?

Chipan: Well, we got put into groups and we had to pretend we were lost at sea with just a few materials. We had to see how we would decide what to use and how to use it.

Jean: Oh, that's interesting.

Chipan: Yeah, it actually was really interesting to see how others used the tools that were given to us. I was able to see some strong points in my colleagues that I never noticed before.

An explosion

An explosion is when something suddenly inflates or expands and then blows up because of fire, temperature, or stress. **An explosion** usually involves a loud noise, a lot of smoke, and can sometimes do quite a bit of damage to the surrounding area. A common form of **explosion** is when a bomb or dynamite is lit. You've probably seen this in movies. After the bomb or dynamite is lit, its size increases. If there is not enough room for it to expand, like in a stick of dynamite for example, the dynamite will **explode**, which creates a loud noise and destroys whatever is around it. Often, you will hear the term **explosion** used figuratively, meaning that it is not talking about a real **explosion**, but using the same term because of some similarity. In this episode, Andrew uses the word **explosion** to talk about the sudden increase of movies being made in Canada. Andrew is using the term **explosion** figuratively because the increase in moves being made in Canada refers to a sudden expansion, much like an actual **explosion**.

Here is an example of an **explosion**:

Harun: Do you want some of my salad?

Jenyx: Sure! It's delicious. What's in it?

Harun: Quinoa, chick peas, and feta cheese.

Jenyx: Wow, quinoa's made quite the **explosion** in North American lately.

Harun: Yeah, it's become quite popular. It's supposed to be really good for you.

Jenyx: And, it tastes delicious!

Hollywood of the North

Hollywood of the North is a nickname given to Toronto, Ontario, Canada because of its increasing film industry. Hollywood is an area in California that is known for movies being made there, and for film stars making their home there. It also houses a lot of film studios. It is quite the tourist spot because of its long history of movies and celebrities. Since Toronto is becoming quite the film centre as well, and since it is north of California, the nickname **Hollywood of the North** has become popular in recent years.

Big name stars

Big name stars usually refers to movie actors that are widely known and appear in a lot of movies. It also implies that the celebrity is respected among other actors and film viewers, and it usually implies that they are in high demand and other directors want to use them in their movies. Sometimes, there are movie stars that appear in a lot of movies and are very well known, but they are not considered **big name** stars because, for whatever reason, they are not as desirable to directors, they do not make as much money, and journalists do not follow them around all the time. These actors, which are very prolific but not as esteemed, are sometimes called B-rated stars.

The term **big name** comes from the fact that popular actors' names used to be displayed on marquees, which are huge billboards above movie theatres. In the past, these marquees were very popular, and the biggest stars would get their names written in the largest letters, leading to the expression **big name**. **Big name** basically means anyone who is important in his or her particular field or career.

Hot spot

Hot spot means a popular place. It usually refers to somewhere like a restaurant, bar, or club that a lot of people go to, or want to go to. Sometimes, as we see in this episode when Andrew uses it to describe Vancouver, it is used to simply mean popular or trendy. The expression comes from the fact that **hot** means fashionable or trendy, and **spot** means area or space. **Hot spot** is an example of assonance, where the same vowel sound is repeated in neighbouring words. Alliterations, where the same consonant sound repeats at the beginning of neighbouring words, are popular in common English as nicknames because they are fun and easy to remember. There are plenty of common alliterations such as *good as gold*, *last laugh*, and *busy bee*.

Here is another example of a **hot spot**:

Fabio: What did you do this weekend?

Margarita: I went to Blossom Beach.

Fabio: Oh, is that the one they recently cleaned up and redesigned?

Margarita: Yes, it's so nice now. But it's become quite the **hot spot**, so you have to get there early to get a good spot in the sand.

To get around to doing

To get around to doing means to finally do something after delaying it a while. In this episode, Andrew tells Harp that he's never **gotten around** to seeing the movie *Twilight*. What Andrew means is that he never ended up seeing the movie, even though he may have intended to at one point.

Here is another example of **to get around to doing**:

Izabel: I have to go down to the laundromat tonight. Do you want to come with me?

Bogi: No, I'll do mine some other time.

Izabel: But this morning you said you were out of socks!

Bogi: I was, but I bought some more. I'll **get around to doing** my laundry soon, but I've just been too busy with homework lately.

A saga

A saga means a long story with lots of subplots, which goes on for more than one chapter, episode or book. **A saga** usually has more than one main character, and follows these characters throughout a long time period. **A saga** could be a trilogy or have lots of sequels, or it could be one book that spans over decades or even centuries.

Originally, **saga** was a word only used for ancient Nordic texts that would tell the story of Viking voyages, wars, and other lengthy and heroic adventures in Norse history. It became popular to use a similar style, one that is similar to a history textbook, to talk about certain families and their heritage over time. Nowadays, the term **saga** can refer to anything that tells a complex story involving a lot of characters. In this episode *Twilight* is described as a **saga**. There are also other popular **sagas** today, such as *The Lord of the Rings* or *Star Wars*.

Here is another example of a **saga**:

Tess: We have to read *Gone with the Wind* for my English class, have you read it?

Mia: I have! It's one of my favourite books.

Tess: It's so long! What is it about?

Mia: It's a **saga** about the South during the Civil War. It follows a single family through several generations. Trust me, you'll like it.

The lower mainland

The lower mainland is an area specific to British Columbia, and describes the area of Vancouver and around Vancouver, in other words the lower region of British Columbia, not including any island. **Mainland** usually refers to any area that is not an island, commonly used for places that have a lot of islands, like British Columbia.

Even though the term **lower mainland** is very widely used, there is no real geographical mapping of what is considered **the lower mainland**. While some areas are commonly accepted to be part of **the lower mainland**, such as Vancouver, others like Whistler are not as clear.

To go nuts

To go nuts means to go crazy or to get very excited over something. There are several different possible origins of this expression, but the most probably one is that nuts used to be a nickname for someone's head. When someone was crazy, they would be said to be **off one's nut**. The earliest known use of this was 1861. **Off ones nut** eventually became shortened to just be **nuts**. So, **to go nuts** means to go crazy. Crazy can mean all sort of things, though. Most commonly, **to go nuts** means to go crazy over something, whether from excitement or frustration.

Here is another example of **to go nuts**:

Tao: Do you want to go to the mall? Most stores have sales on today.

Freddy: No way! I hate going shopping when there are sales on.

Tao: Why? You can get such good deals!

Freddy: People **go nuts**! They fight over things and just act insane! I'd rather pay full price.

Generation gap

A **generation gap** is an expression used to describe the apparent misunderstanding or misinterpretation between a generation and the generation younger or older than it.

Generation gap describes the difference between two different age groups, and their tendency to like different things.

In this episode, Andrew uses the expression to describe how he doesn't understand or find the same interest in the movie series *Twilight*, and that this is probably due to a **generation gap**. What Andrew is saying is that *Twilight* is a series that appeals to the people that are of a younger generation than him, and maybe that's why he doesn't find it as interesting as they do.

Here is another example of **generation gap**:

Asri: Do you ever listen to Justin Beiber?

Quyen: No! I'm almost 30 years old!

Asri: Why does that matter?

Quyen: Well, Justin Beiber is really popular with younger people, but nobody I know who is over 20 years old listens to him.

Asri: Must be a **generation gap**, then. I can't really understand why so many people like him either, but I'm almost 30 too.

Quyen: Yeah, it's definitely a generational thing.

The back of your mind

The back of your mind means that something that you are always thinking about or aware of, even if you aren't actively thinking about it. You can be focusing on washing the dishes but you could have an upcoming exam at **the back of your mind** the whole time.

In this episode, Harp uses the expression to describe how, when you're watching a movie getting filmed, you're always sort of hoping they ask you to be in the movie. What Harp is saying is that even if you're not consciously or purposely watching the movie in hopes of being part of it, the hope that that would happen is probably in your thoughts somewhere. **The back of your mind** is another way of saying your subconscious, which is that part of your mind which is not actively in use, but is there all the same.

Here is another example of **the back of your mind**:

Vecha: Hey are you ok? You seem distracted.

Micheline: Yeah, sorry. I just keep thinking about my driver's test tomorrow.

Vecha: I understand. Do you want to watch this movie tomorrow instead?

Micheline: No, that's OK. I can still concentrate on the movie. The test is just in **the back of my mind**. It'll be nice to focus on something else.

An extra

An extra, when used in speaking about films and movies, describes an actor that plays a background person, or a member of the general public in the movie. If you think about any movie you see, there are usually people walking around, driving and talking to each other, in the background. You may not even really notice they're there if you're not looking. These **extras** are there to make the scene look real, and look like every day public life.

Usually **extras**, or bit part players as they're sometimes called, have no speaking roles. A lot of big name actors start as **extras**, because people wanting to be actors sometimes have to take very small parts in order to make a name for themselves and finally get a bigger part. Some people might be very surprised to learn that Brad Pitt, Clint Eastwood, and even Marilyn Monroe started out as **extras** before they became movie stars.

Here is another example of an **extra**:

Yukie: Sam told me you have a part in the school play! Congratulations!!

Hana: Well, it's just as an **extra**. I'm one of the diners at the restaurant in the opening scene. I don't have any lines.

Yukie: Yeah, but so many actors starts as **extras**. At least you'll get experience this way!

Hana: Yeah. I'm hoping it helps gets a bigger part in the future if someone recognizes me.

TIFF

TIFF stands for the **Toronto International Film Festival**, which is an annual celebration held in Toronto that recognizes films from all around the world. Many celebrities come to **TIFF**, some because they star in the films and some because they want a chance to see all these international films that they wouldn't get a chance to see otherwise. As anyone living in Toronto will tell you, **TIFF** is a very exciting time in Toronto. There are many celebrity sightings in public because celebrities probably feel a little safer going out in Toronto. This is because Toronto doesn't have as many aggressive photographers and journalists that places like Los Angeles do.

TIFF actually began in 1976. It was called the Festival of Festivals back then, but the idea was the same: to showcase films from all around the world. The name changed to **TIFF** in 1995, and over the years became one of the most respected film festivals in the world.

TIFF shows international and independent movies at cinemas all around the city, who all take part in the festivities. There are also lots of related events and celebrity socials all over the city.

Indie films

Indie films is short for independent films, which are films that do not have big budget or big name companies backing them, and are funded by independent means. **Indie films** are not associated with any large movie producers, such as MGM or Paramount.

The term **indie**, to mean **independent**, is used in a lot of different creative genres like music and book publishing. In music, **independent** also means that the production of the music was not funded by a big music label, but started from **independent** sources. The artists themselves fund some of them. Over time, the term **indie** has come to describe more than just funding. People use the term independent to describe a style of music and films, generally music or movies that are different or quirky and wouldn't normally be associated with any large producer because they're not mainstream or typical.

Here is another example of **indie** films:

Violet: Have you been to that new theatre on 4th Avenue yet?

Khalid: I haven't. Did you go? Is it good?

Violet: It's really good. It shows **independent** movies, which I love. I'd never even know about these films otherwise!

Khalid: Oh I love **indie** films. I'll be sure to check it out soon.

A drive-in

A drive-in is an outdoor movie theatre. They are generally a summertime North American event, and they used to be a very popular in the 1950s and 1960s but they aren't as popular anymore. There used to be close to 4,000 **drive-in** theatres in the 1950s and 1960s, but now there are only about 400 in all of North America.

A drive-in theatre is a big lot with a speaker at each parking spot. You would pay for your movie, drive into the theatre and choose a spot. Then you could either hook the speaker up to your car stereo and listen to the movie from inside your car, or you could sit outside and listen the speaker from a chair you would bring from home. The movie would be shown on a giant screen at one end of the lot. There would usually also be a little shop where you could buy popcorn or use the washroom. **Drive-ins** were very popular because they made your movie a little bit more personal if you stayed in your car, or a little bit more public and party-like if you sit outside your car and talk to other people during the movie.

It is believed that there are two reasons **drive-ins** heightened in popularity in the 1950s and 1960s: the baby boom and the popularization of cars. Back in the 1950s **drive-ins** provided a place where parents could bring their small children, without having their children disturb anyone like they would have if they were in a quiet theatre. The baby boom refers to a span of a few years when many couples reuniting after the war had children. Because of this, a lot of babies were born between 1950 and 1960. **Drive-ins** provided a space where people could still see the movies they wanted to see and bring their growing families. Also, during these years the automobile industry became very popular. People finally had money to spare after an expensive war, and the car companies started making newer and better models of cars. Cars became a very popular purchase, and people were proud of their cars. **Drive-ins** were a space to show those cars off and to spend more time in vehicles that people spent their hard-earned money on.

Drive-ins have a very interesting history and are very fun to go to if you ever get the chance!

To pop up

To pop up means to suddenly and unexpectedly appear somewhere. In this episode, we hear Andrew use the expression **popping up** to talk about the increase of jobs in the film industry in Canada. What Andrew means is that the amount of jobs in the film industry in Canada all of a sudden got bigger, which happened because more producers and directors started using Canada to film their movies, even though the movies are supposed to be set in the United States. So, the job increase was a surprise since nobody realized that people would begin using Canada even though their movie takes place in the United States.

Here is another example of **to pop up**:

Edson: They're opening a new bakery outside my apartment. I saw the sign this morning.

Gregor: Let me guess- they're going to sell cupcakes?

Edson: How did you know?

Gregor: Cupcakes have become so popular lately! I see the bakeries everywhere. And I'm sure more are going **to pop up**, too. It seems like people love cupcakes more than ever!

Edson: Yeah. I guess you're right. I've never thought about it but cupcakes are becoming a trend.

Quiz

1. Which Canadian city is nicknamed the Hollywood of the North?

- a) Toronto
- b) Montreal
- c) Yellowknife
- d) Calgary

2. What is a hot spot?

- a) a popular, busy spot
- b) a dirty place in need of repair
- c) a type of movie
- d) a type of theatre

3. What is a saga?

- a) a type of award handed out at film awards
- b) the nickname given to cities that hold film festivals
- c) a long story that follows different characters over a long time
- d) the organization that produces most Hollywood movies

4. What is a generation gap?

- a) the nickname given to actors who have children that become actors
- b) a name given to movies that deal with growing up
- c) the difference between two age groups that often causes differing interests
- d) a type of theatre that allows children

5. What does TIFF stand for?

- a) Toronto International Film Festival

- b) The Independent Film Festival
- c) Toronto's Iconic Film Fest
- d) The Indie Fan Festival

6. What is an indie film?

- a) a movie that has no sound, also called a silent film
- b) a film that follows several teenagers through their journey to adulthood
- c) a film made by independent people, not related to any major movie company
- d) a movie that was produced by a big studio, but wasn't shown in theatres.

7. What is a drive-in theatre?

- a) a DVD player in the backs of new minivans
- b) an outdoor theatre that you drive into
- c) a popular genre of film that depicts animals as the main characters instead of people
- d) movies that you can buy and listen to on audiocassette.

8. What does a big name star usually refer to?

- a) a celebrity that starts to use a different name when they become famous
- b) an actor that refuses to attend film festivals
- c) a celebrity that is in a lot of movies, but only plays small parts
- d) a celebrity that is popular and respected

Answers:

1.a 2.a 3c 4.c 5.a 6.c 7.b 8.d