

# ALUMNI

**LINKS**

*alumnus*, a lum' nus, *n. pl alumni*, a lum' ni [ L., a disciple, from *alo*, to nourish.] Formerly a pupil; now a graduate of an educational institution. *-alumna*, a lum' na, *n.* Feminine for *alumnus*

## Martin Hallé talks about his work with Industrial Light and Magic



Martin Hallé graduated from The Art Institute of Vancouver in 2002 with a diploma in Visual Effects.

Martin is currently working at Industrial Light and Magic (a Lucasfilm Company) in San Francisco. He is the Effects Technical Director and has recently completed his latest project: *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull*. He worked on all the particles dynamic simulation for this project and was also responsible for the lighting and rendering of those assets.

A major milestone in Martin's career was getting the opportunity to work on *Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End*. Not only was the film a huge success at the box office but it was nominated for an Oscar for Best Visual Effects. Martin worked with Academy Award winner, John Knoll, on the crab sequences for the movie. He describes the experience as "very nice and very challenging".

Martin has a lot to be proud of in his career. Not only did he start up the 3D department at both Stargate Digital and Spin West. He also had one of the films he worked on at Industrial Light and Magic nominated for an Oscar!

For Martin, the best thing about working in visual effects is the challenge and the creativity that comes with it. He enjoys being in front of a problem and figuring out a solution. He also likes the flexibility of lifestyle that comes with being a freelancer in the industry. Martin finds inspiration for his work in the world around him. "My work is to try and re-create phenomena that occur in the real world. So I try as much as possible to observe the world around me." He greatly respects the work of his peers and the masters who came before them. "I am always challenged by other people's work."

During his time at The Art Institute of Vancouver Martin discovered the ever expanding nature of the visual effects industry and that one must constantly expand their knowledge to keep up. "I still learn something new every day" he says. He also learned the importance of exploring aspects of other disciplines such as lighting, animation, acting, directing etc.

Martin's advice to current students is "Engage yourself!" He stresses the importance of giving 150% to your work and the reflection this will have on you as an artist.

# Hello Alumni!

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*Another quarter comes to a close and a lot has happened over the last few months. The National Alumni Survey that was recently conducted provides us with valuable information that will help improve the quality of the alumni services offered to you. Thank you to all those who participated.*

*The alumni event this quarter was a success with fun in the sun had by all. On June 14th a group of alumni met at the Sewell's Marina and in teams of 3 or 4 we raced around Horseshoe Bay on an ocean scavenger hunt. See page 4 for pictures!*

*This will be the last newsletter from me for a while. I will be taking maternity leave in August and will be away for a year learning all the joys (and frustrations) of parenting. I look forward to getting in touch with you all when I return. I have no doubt that the interim Alumni Coordinator will do a fantastic job.*

*Until then, I hope to hear from you all. Any thoughts or ideas you have are always welcome! Email: [mradebe@aii.edu](mailto:mradebe@aii.edu)*

**HAVE A SIZZLING SUMMER!**

*Meghan Radebe*



# MARISSA NAHANE

Marissa Nahanee has lived in Vancouver all her life and decided to enroll in the Event Planning program at The Art Institute of Vancouver in 2006. The program was exactly what she was looking for to start her career as an Event Planner.

Marissa defines her experience at The Art Institute as "a wake up call" to the real world. She loved the program courses and really benefited from the diversity and knowledge her fellow classmates brought to her learning experience. She also appreciated the caliber of instructors and staff at The Art Institute of Vancouver and felt that they certainly added to the quality of her experience at school. Marissa is thankful to her Academic Director Mike Granek and her librarian Adam Farell for providing invaluable support.

After graduation, Marissa decided to further her education at the Native Education College. Marissa made a brave choice to turn down numerous job offers during this period so as to finish her studies. Her choice paid off and as soon as she was finished with her studies she was offered her dream job of working on the Vancouver 2010 Olympic & Paralympic Winter Games. Marissa accepted a position with one of the VANOC partners and is currently working for Four Host First Nations.

Marissa enjoys working with her team whose purpose is to ensure unprecedented aboriginal participation in the Vancouver 2010 Olympic & Paralympic Winter Games. She has been working on the planning for the Olympic torch relay as well as the planning for an upcoming trip to Beijing where some of her team are going to participate in a cultural exchange during the Beijing Olympics.



*Marissa Nahanee is from Es7lhan (North Vancouver, BC) and Gitwinshikw (Canyon City, Northern BC), her ancestral lineages is from the Squamish and Nisga'a First Nations. The clothing in the picture, are her traditional Nisga'a Blanket and a Squamish hand woven Red-Cedar Hat.*

Although working on the 2010 Winter Games is keeping Marissa busy enough, she still has time to work on personal projects on the side such as planning a traditional Sto:lo wedding coming up in August. She also has time to think about her future. After the Olympics, Marissa wants to get a degree and open up her own business that will specialize in planning "aboriginal infused" events.

Marissa's advice for aspiring students is to, "never under-estimate the advice from your instructors." She learned that it is okay to ask for help and that eventually you will have your "a-ha" moment. She leaves us with words of wisdom she received from the President of The Art Institute of Vancouver, Tom Kim: "It's all about passion. If you're not doing what you love, then why do it?"

# ALUMNI SEA QUEST



Thanks to all those who came out for the alumni event on June 14th. It was a great day filled with fun in the sun, speedboats, inukshuks and swimming deer!



## Ideas for Answering Common Interview Questions

**Question:** So, tell me a little bit about yourself.

**Answer:** This is your 30-second “elevator speech” opportunity. You should have this prepared in advance and be used to telling anyone who will listen. Briefly explain your background (where you’re from, what previous experience you have, and why you are interested in the position)

**Question:** What do you consider to be your greatest strength?

**Answer:** This is a good opportunity to discuss personal strengths – typically, the employer will have a good grasp on your technical skills through your resume and work samples, but the interview is the one opportunity to connect on a personal level (after all, you might be working with this person 40+ hours a week!) So, highlight skills such as being dependable, open-minded, taking critique well, working well with others, and a positive attitude!

**Question:** What do you consider to be your greatest weakness?

**Answer:** This should ALWAYS be a two-part answer. Talk about an area you can improve on and how you’re improving it. Don’t mention any technical skills you lack and never talk about any personal conflicts you might have had with past employers or team members. A great answer could be, “Well, it takes me a little while to feel comfortable with a new group or team, but I think it’s a natural process and one that most people experience. I’m trying to be more outgoing from the onset and have worked hard to overcome my initial shyness.”

**Question:** Tell me about a recent challenge you have faced

**Answer:** This is a multi-part response. Talk about the challenge and then highlight how you overcame the challenge, the end result, and what you learned from it. Example: “As an intern, it took a while for the company to find a role for me. It was a real challenge to have such little direction when I first began. I had to seek out opportunities to help and really be pro-active in finding my niche. Ultimately, I was able to connect with a number of designers and ended up forming some great working relationships with each. This challenge helped me to understand the importance of self motivation and that sometimes you have to take the initiative rather than wait for it to be handed to you.”

**Question:** Do you have any questions?

**Answer:** ALWAYS have questions for them! Think about these ahead of time and try to get a better idea of the position. Some good questions are, “What skills do you think are most important in order to be successful at this position? Is there opportunity for growth within the company?” And most important – try to create a course of action. This might be your one opportunity to find out where you stand and the overall hiring process by the employer. Ask them, “When are you looking bring someone in for this position? Can I expect to hear from you soon?” Ideally, you’ll know if the employer intends to make phone calls and when, or what their next step is....and then you know the time frame to follow-up with them!

# Marina

Was born and raised in Vancouver and chose to attend The Art Institute of Vancouver as a starting point on her journey towards becoming a successful fashion designer. A dream she has had since childhood. Studying at The Art Institute of Vancouver allowed her to gain some experience and create a strong foundation before moving on to further her education in New York.

She created this foundation by fully embracing the program and working extremely hard to absorb all of the information offered by the school. Marina believes that "the program is really what you make of it" and she worked hard to utilize all of the resources available to her. The industry professional instructors, guest speakers and her own research allowed her to get the most out of her experience at The Art Institute of Vancouver. "Fashion is a subject that I have been interested in since I was a toddler, so I had no trouble devoting myself to the program."

Marina's dedication paid off when she secured her first job before graduation. The owner of the company she currently works for heard about her through other industry contacts she had made while in school. All it took was one meeting with the employer and Marina was hired! "I'm lucky to have such a great job that I love." Marina is the buyer for a high-end women's boutique in West Vancouver. She also deals with the marketing, special events and advertising for the company.



# Moscone

Marina believes that the combination of great business, retailing and trend forecasting courses she took at school coupled with her own experiences are what make her a good buyer. She describes the transition from being a student to a working professional as "easy" because she had so much support from her family and friends and because "I was ready to share what I had learned."

Marina's success doesn't stop there. Her latest accomplishment is being accepted into Parsons School of Design in New York. "I have wanted to go there since I was four years old. The world's best designers have studied there—Tom Ford, Zac Posen, Donna Karan, just to name a few." This amazing accomplishment has given Marina the realization that any dream is possible as long as you work hard towards achieving it. She plans to start in the Fall of 2008 and will be working towards her degree in Fashion Studies.

When asked what words of advice she has to give to aspiring students Marina says "everything is what you make of it. If you are really dedicated to this industry and it's something you are serious about pursuing, then you will make it through hard work, discipline and most importantly by living and breathing it."

From where I'm standing Marina is the proverbial "proof in the pudding". We wish Marina all the best in The Big Apple!

# The Art Institute of Vancouver Announces Development of a New Campus Location in 2009

Vancouver (March 10, 2008) – The Art Institute of Vancouver is pleased to announce not only the development of a new campus location next year at the corner of Renfrew Street and East 12th Street in Vancouver, but also a highly-anticipated amalgamation of several of their current downtown and Burnaby campuses into one.

The new campus will encompass an 80,000 square foot building featuring two floors of classroom space and ample parking for students, staff, and faculty. The building sits at the base of the Renfrew Skytrain station and has the capacity to accommodate expansion projects in the future. The building's exterior features a sleek, contemporary design, which will house the young and creative minds, enrolled in The Art Institute's media arts and design programs. The Art Institute's West Georgia and Dunsmuir Street campuses will relocate in 2009, while the Burnaby campus will move in 2010. The relocation will not affect The International Culinary School at The Art Institute of Vancouver, which will remain at its present location in downtown Vancouver.



Tom Kim, President of The Art Institute of Vancouver, praises the school's parent company Education Management Corporation (EDMC) for recognizing and rewarding The Art Institute of Vancouver with a great new facility for its students. Kim proudly points out The Art Institute of Vancouver's success and growth in the last few years, stating "we are continuing to see the expanded reach of our reputation throughout North America and the world as we receive students seeking to join our team from every province, state, and a variety of countries from each continent. This is a true testament to our relentless effort to equip and help our students and graduates achieve excellence and employment in their respective disciplines."

The development of a new campus highlights The Art Institute of Vancouver's commitment to learning and demonstrates the school's continuous drive to improve their learning centres. Students, staff, and faculty can look forward to a new home in the future, as well as a reaffirmation of The Art Institute's vision to provide a stimulating intellectual, educational, and cultural learning environment.

## HAVE YOU JOINED THE ALUMNI COMMUNITY YET?

Register at [www.alumniconnections.com/ArtInstitutes](http://www.alumniconnections.com/ArtInstitutes) and gain access to a wealth of national alumni services. By registering on The Art Institute's national alumni website you have access to the following services:

**Online Directory:** Search for friends or colleagues and keep in touch.

**Events Calendar:** Keep informed of all the events happening in your area as well as all over North America.

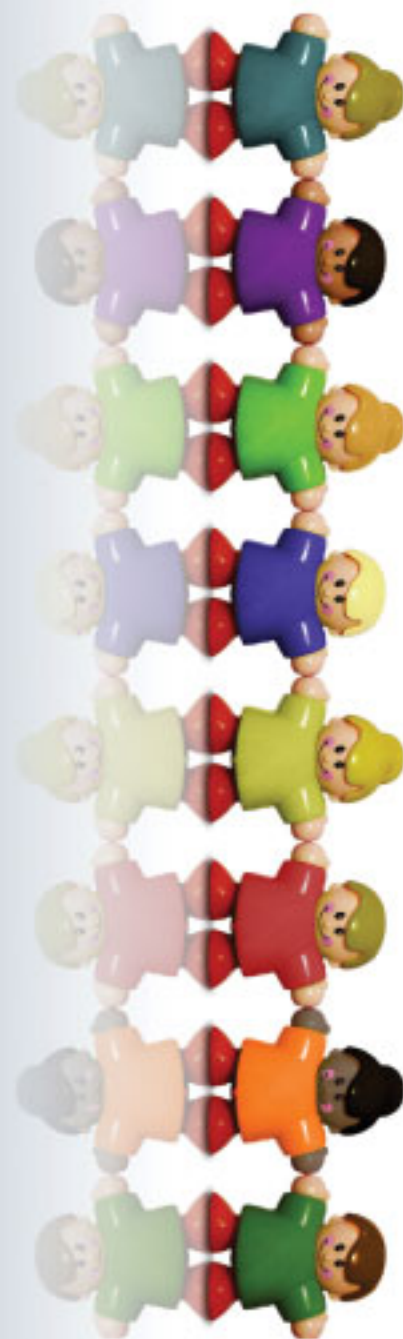
**Online Job Board:** Search for intermediate or senior level positions in your industry. You will have access to jobs available all over North America.

**Alumni Mentor Program:** Become a source of valuable information for students and recent graduates. Your wealth of knowledge and experience is invaluable to them!

**Yellow Pages:** Create an advert to promote the service or product you provide to your alumni community OR use the yellow pages to search for a service or product. Remember you are linked to all The Art Institute schools across North America!

These are just a few of the benefits you will receive when you sign up to the Alumni website. So what are you waiting for?

[www.alumniconnections.com/ArtInstitutes](http://www.alumniconnections.com/ArtInstitutes)



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