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Website

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A new Canadian-produced television series tied in with upcoming book releases aims to capture the spirit of the written word in moving images. BookShorts: Moving Stories (8x30') is being produced by a burgeoning Toronto indie, also named BookShorts, which is fronted by producer Judith Keenan.

Overseen by various directors, the series is slated for national broadcast in primetime on CHUM-owned channels including Access The Education Station, CLT (Canadian Learning Television) and diginet BookTelevision, with each episode to be broadcast in conjunction with the book's release date.

Titles currently in production include episodes on **Archetypes** by Mireille Silcoff with Kagan McLeod (McClelland & Stewart); **Confessions of a Pilgrim** by Sue Kenney (White Knight Books); **JPod** by Douglas Coupland (Random House Canada); and **My Heart is Africa** by **Scott Griffin** (Thomas Allen Publishing).

With a deal also reportedly in the works for the US market, the idea of the series is to marry scripted narrative produced by filmmakers with the release of the original work upon which it is based, introducing both to the public simultaneously.

Aside from the new half-hour series, BookShorts has close to 53 short films based on popular books already produced for its international sales catalogue. The shorts run between two and five minutes and have been financed through a combination of support from Canada's Ministry of Heritage, publishing houses and broadcast licenses.

- Jenn Kuzmyk