



THE CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE DISTRIBUTORS ASSOCIATION
L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES DISTRIBUTEURS DE FILMS

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**THREE MONTREAL MEN ARE CHARGED IN CONNECTION WITH MAJOR
INTERNATIONAL DVD PIRACY OPERATION**

Suspects facing heavy fines and jail terms for Copyright Act violations

MONTREAL, QC – On December 19, 2008, criminal charges were laid against three Montreal men for the illegal reproduction and sale of pirated television series on DVD. The accused are charged in connection with an extensive international operation out of Montreal alleged to have sold and distributed pirated DVDs in Canada and around the world via interconnected illicit websites.

Charges were laid against François Garcia, Jason Joyal and Francesco Tomaino under the *Copyright Act* of Canada. If convicted, the accused face fines of up to \$1 million and jail terms of up to 5 years. No plea has yet been entered

The Canadian Motion Picture Distributors Association (CMPDA) initiated an investigation after receiving a series of public complaints about websites that appeared to be offering pirated DVDs to unwitting consumers. The Montreal Detachment of the RCMP's Federal Enforcement Section subsequently launched a criminal investigation, supported by the Canada Border Services Agency, Canada Post and other agencies. The RCMP executed a search warrant at a replicating facility in Montreal that they estimate was capable of producing 14,000 pirated DVDs a day, seizing tens of thousands of pirated DVDs, 200 DVD burners, and computer equipment before charges were laid.

"The distribution of pirated DVDs is a serious, worldwide problem that hurts not only the people who make the movies and legitimate retailers, but also consumers who end up with bad quality, counterfeit DVDs," said CMPDA's Deputy Director of Anti-Piracy Operations Steve Covey. "We salute the efforts of the RCMP in this operation. Active investigation and prosecution of copyright violations sends an unmistakable message to organized criminals that copyright theft is a serious crime that will be prosecuted".

About the Canadian Motion Picture Distributors Association

The Canadian Motion Picture Distributors Association (CMPDA) serves as the voice and advocate of the major international distributors of movies, home entertainment and television programming in Canada. The CMPDA carries out investigations, provides support during criminal and civil litigation, and helps educate film lovers on the negative effects of piracy. CMPDA members include Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures, Paramount Pictures Corporation, Sony Pictures Entertainment Inc., Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation, Universal City Studios LLLP and Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. For more information on the CMPDA, please visit www.cmpda.ca.

About Film piracy

Movie piracy and the trade of other counterfeit goods harms Canada's local economies, kills jobs and impacts everyone who is involved in the production and distribution of these goods, affecting a wide variety of artists, manufacturers, distributors, producers, retailers, exhibitors, employees, consumers and governments. In 2005 it was estimated that the annual Canadian consumer spending loss due to film piracy was \$225 million (US) and that film piracy cost the Canadian government over \$34 million (US) in lost tax revenue. As piracy increasingly becomes the province of sophisticated multi-national organizations with operations placed around the globe, it is essential that countries throughout the world understand and enforce intellectual property rights, both domestically and in co-operation with their international partners.

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