



Roméo Dallaire, left, and Peter Raymont collaborated on the documentary *Shake Hands with the Devil: The Journey of Roméo Dallaire*, which won the World Cinema Documentary Audience Award yesterday at the Sundance film festival in Utah. 'This is such a wonderful honour — as a Canadian, and as a filmmaker, but also a human being,' said Mr. Raymont.

## Dallaire's Devil a top doc at Sundance

Film about Rwanda takes prestigious audience award; director Raymont hopes world 'wakes up' to genocide

BY KATHERINE MONK

PARK CITY, Utah — Canada reaffirmed its leading role in documentary film yesterday, picking up the World Cinema Documentary Audience Award for Peter Raymont's film, *Shake Hands with the Devil: The Journey of Roméo Dallaire*.

It's the second time the award has been handed out, and it's the second time a Canadian film won. Last year, *The Corporation* won the prestigious Sundance prize hand-picked by Sundance audiences.

"It's a huge honour," said Mr. Raymont, reached by phone yesterday evening at his son's hockey game in Toronto.

"I really want to thank the general (Dallaire) for trusting me to tell his story, and to the Sundance organizers for giving this film a chance to be seen by a wider audience. I also want to thank Robert Redford for coming out in person to the screening and sharing the film with an audience," he said.

"This is really for the people of Rwanda."

Mr. Raymont said it was an important film to make, and he hopes it will reaffirm the basic human truth that all suffering should be counted equally.

"The people in Park City are just as important as the people in Rwanda. Hopefully, it will wake people up. Genocide is taking place as we speak in Darfur (Sudan)."

Mr. Raymont says he believes part of the reason why Canadians make such compelling documentaries is because we see the world from a unique perspective.

"I think Canadians see the world more as anthropologists. We see the ourselves as part of the larger world community. I think we're not burdened by the weight of being a superpower, and that gives us the chance to listen, and understand different issues around the world," he said.

"That was certainly the general's approach to Rwanda, and it's a message he continues to articulate wherever he goes: We have to be more sensitive to the different cultural traditions

of other countries, and respect their unique way of life."

If the audience award succeeds in doing anything, Mr. Raymont hopes it will help the film find distributors in the U.S. and abroad, in addition to Canada and Britain, where it's already been sold.

"Canadians are respected the world over, and this is such a wonderful honour — as a Canadian, and as a filmmaker, but also a human being. I think I echo the general's feelings that Canada can, and should, play an important role ... as peacekeepers who respect the country and the situation we're in. I don't know if Americans would be having the same problems in Iraq if they had followed UN protocols, and taught their troops about different cultural traditions that exist in that country," he said.

"It's about human respect and dignity."

Mr. Raymont's film was the only Canadian feature-length film that made it into Sundance this year, which makes the prize an important validation



EVAN AGOSTINI, GETTY IMAGES

**Sundance festival founder Robert Redford came out to the opening night screening of *Shake Hands with the Devil*.**

for the Canadian filmmaking industry in general.

So far, no other nation has been able to get its fingers on the honour.

Canadian director Chris Landreth got an Oscar nod for his short film *Ryan* while at Sundance, but didn't win more than an honourable mention from the jury here at the festival.

This year marked the first time Sundance handed out ju-

ried prizes in the international documentary and dramatic categories.

The World Cinema Documentary Grand Jury Prize was given to *Shape of the Moon*, a portrait of a Christian family living in Muslim Indonesia from the Netherlands, while the World Cinema Dramatic Jury Prize was presented to *The Hero*, a co-production from Angola, Portugal and France that explores one family's attempts to heal in the wake of civil war.

War and its effects on the human spirit clearly found the hearts and minds of Sundance audiences and jury members.

The winner of the World Cinema Dramatic Audience Award was *Brothers*, a film from Denmark that tells the story of two brothers — one presumed dead in Afghanistan, and the other left back at home, trying to keep the family together in the shadow of his disappearance.

The big American jury prize winner was *Why We Fight*, Eugene Jarecki's documentary that picks up on Dwight D. Eisenhower's warning in his 1961 farewell address, in which the outgoing president told the American people their personal liberties were threatened by the global military-industrial complex and its for-profit agenda.