



— Jim Holt, CP

■ TORONTO DOCUMENTARY filmmaker Peter Raymont promotes his work earlier this week in Park City, Utah.

Audience approval

TORONTO FILMMAKER

Peter Raymont was thrilled to win the Audience Award for Best Documentary at the Sundance Film Festival for his film *Shake Hands With The Devil: The Journey of Romeo Dallaire*. But Raymont said the honour was not about him.

In an awards ceremony Saturday night, capping 10 days showcasing more than 200 films from around the world, Raymont's film documenting the Rwandan genocide was chosen the best in its class this year. It was the second consecutive year a Canadian film has claimed the top documentary prize, succeeding last year's winner *The Corporation*.

T.O. filmmaker's Rwanda doc wins honour

"It's fantastic and it's a great honour," Raymont said. "It's important in that this will help bring the film to more people, to help keep the (issue of the) genocide alive and to keep it from happening again."

"It's not about another plaque on the wall," he said. "Hopefully this will attract some major distribution deal in the States."

Raymont's film was the only full-length Canadian film selected to show at Sundance this year. It was one of 38 documentaries selected from more than 1,000 submitted

from around the world.

The director said he felt particularly flattered when Sundance creator, actor Robert Redford, introduced his film last week as the festival got underway. Redford is not in the habit of singling films out at the festival.

"He came partly because I think he admires Gen. Dallaire. (Redford) came to our event Saturday."

"He met the general and I beforehand for a few minutes. They sort of expressed their admiration for each other."

"Then he got up in front

of the crowd, Redford did, and said this is the type of film why we created Sundance and why Sundance was created in the first place — that it's an independent film, it's about an important human rights justice issue, then he welcomed the general as a great humanitarian."

Raymont said Redford then stayed for the question-and-answer period following the movie.

The CBC will broadcast a one-hour version of the documentary tonight at 9 p.m.

— CP