



THE POET

A Spoken Word Film by

Kim Saltarski

AMAZING AIN'T IT PRODUCTIONS INC. IN ASSOCIATION WITH BELL MEDIA & BRAVOFACT PRESENTS

A FILM BY KIM SALTARSKI "IF THE POET"

FEATURING IAN FRENCH AKA "IF THE POET" WITH IAN KETEKU, FANNON, ERIN DINGLE, DIA DAVINA
SOUND DESIGN BY BROCK FRICKER DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY & CO-PRODUCED BY TED PARKES PRODUCED & DIRECTED BY KIM SALTARSKI

WWW.IFTHEPOETMOVIE.COM



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DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT:

I instantly knew after the first time I experienced IF performing his powerful personal truth at a sold-out poetry slam in Toronto that his story must be told beyond the spoken word stage.

Thus began my over yearlong odyssey chronicling IF's triumphs and frustrations finding his place in the exploding Canadian spoken word scene. But what I didn't know that being a fly on the wall in IF's wondrous world would result in me personally growing as much IF did on his own journey.

Our resulting documentary film, IF THE POET, is one of my proudest achievements as a storyteller. IF's inspiring message of "no fear, only love" is truly a beacon for all of us to embrace.



Kim Saltarski

ONE-LINER:

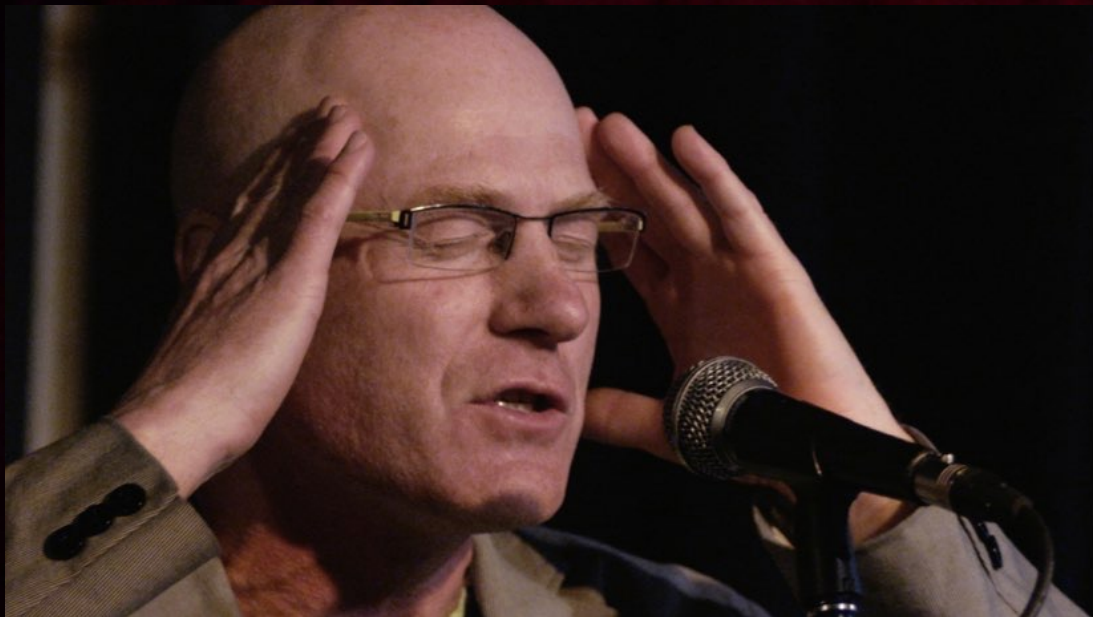
IF THE POET is the moving, irreverent and inspiring documentary film about Ian French, aka "IF", who dove into Slam Poetry at the age of 50.

SHORT SYNOPSIS:

IF THE POET is the moving, irreverent and inspiring documentary film about Ian French, aka "IF", beginning with his 'terrifying' slam debut at age of 50 and culminating in his obsessed quest to be the oldest person to ever win Canadian Individual Poetry Slam Championship in Vancouver.

IF THE POET is a cinematic ride into the wild heart of Canadian Slam where poets have 3 minutes and 10 seconds to seduce, mesmerize and impress a raucous crowd of rhyme junkies, hipsters, Hip Hop heads, and...5 randomly selected judges.

IF's message of empowerment, transformation and personal expression, at any age, is an inspiration.



LONG SYNOPSIS:

What happens when a middle-aged man with a career, family, mortgage, and a cat decides to crash the competitive world of Slam Poetry?

IF THE POET is the moving, irreverent and inspiring story of Ian French, aka "IF", beginning with his 'terrifying' slam debut at age of 50 and culminating in his obsessed quest to be the oldest person to ever win Canadian Individual Poetry Slam Championship in Vancouver. It is also the touching story of the unlikely relationship between 53 year-old IF and his coach and mentor, the 28 year-old poet and musician Ian Keteku, who IF calls "Canada's greatest living poet".

IF THE POET is a cinematic ride into the wild heart of Canadian Slam where poets have 3 minutes and 10 seconds to seduce, mesmerize and impress a raucous crowd of rhyme junkies, hipsters, Hip Hop heads, and...5 randomly selected judges.

You'll meet a array of wonderfully weird, 'ready for prime time' Slam Poets, for whom sex, Sasquatches, race riots and rap, are all fair game for their poetic assault. Plus, get insights from the stars of Canadian spoken word scene including IF's coach Ian Keteku (2010 World Individual Slam Champion), Patrick de Belen (National Slam Champion & Youth Educator), Lillian Allen (Godmother of Dub Poetry), Dwayne Morgan (Acclaimed Poet & Promoter), and CIPS finalists Andre Prefontaine, Sabrina, Erin Dingle, Dia Davina and Fannon.

IF's message of empowerment, transformation and personal expression, at any age, is an inspiration.

Directed and Produced by IF's doppelgänger Kim Saltarski, IF THE POET is spoken word odyssey documentary short produced with a grant awarded by bravoFACT – A division of Bell Media Inc. Visit www.IfThePoetMovie.com for more updates, bonus footage and news on the feature version.

FILMMAKER BIOS:

Kim Saltarski - Director / Producer / IF Doppelgänger



When the camera isn't rolling or the keyboard clicking, Kim is also a prolific songwriter, husband of one, fanatic father of two, friend to many, blissed out world traveller, watermelon lover and much more...

Kim's gripping documentaries for NGOs Children International & Plan Canada shot in Benin, Colombia, Peru, Zambia, The Philippines and Ecuador have touched the hearts of millions across North America.

In addition, Kim produced and directed a riveting docu-adventure reality series, "Operation Unplugged" for travel+escape channel that took him racing across Canada's National Parks with 8 techno addicts.

On the comedy flipside, Kim was the executive producer/showrunner on "popcultured with Elvira Kurt" for The Comedy Network. He produced "Out Of Bounds with John Oakley" for Global and produced four "Cream of Comedy" TV specials for The Comedy Network.

In fact Kim has applied his dynamic bald brain to over 400 hours of original animated and live action family, tween, adult comedy, reality and documentary TV programming. His bevy of broadcasters include: Nickelodeon, CTV, The Comedy Network, YTV, Disney Channel, Global, Discovery Channel, BBC Kids, The Comedy Network, YTV, Disney Channel, Global, Discovery Channel, BBC Kids, Cartoon Network, and The Family Channel.



Ted Parkes - Cinematographer / Co-Producer

Ted has a riches of experience directing, producing and lensing everything from industrials and commercials, and on-air promos to TV series and indie features. But his true passion is being behind the camera. Ted was DOP on “Rich Bride Poor Bride” for Life and “Collector Showdown” Bell Express Vu. He did second Unit camera for “War of the Wheels” for Global. He contributed to the CBC’s “Movie Night in Canada” opening and bumper ads.

He was technical Producer on “Girly Ghost Hunter” on The Space Network, and for the TV sports franchise “All Strength Challenge” which aired on Outdoor Life Network (OLN). He was also the Cinematographer for independent feature through Litmus Productions “Soul Suitcase”.

Ted’s work has taken him around the world, 25 countries at last count. Destinations including Guatemala, Peru, Mexico, Europe, Russia, Africa as well as many Canadian, US and Caribbean locales. He and Kim are Westoverian brothers.



FEATURED POETS:

IF THE POET

IF (Ian French) is a Performance Poet, musician, filmmaker, father and friend.

His poems channel the wisdom of Spirit, the rage of the wounded and the yearning that resides in every human heart. He says “every poem I write is a ‘shout out’ to the sacredness of our days, a three chord party jam, and a tribute to the triumph of love over fear.”

IF is a member of the 2013 National Champion “Toronto Poetry Slam Team” and winner of 2013 Buffalo International Slam. He has performed at various festivals including the prestigious Word On The Street and Words Aloud. IF writes his best poetry while walking and can often be seen wandering the streets, gesticulating wildly and muttering to himself.

IF can be reached at ifthepoet@gmail.com and www.ifthepoet.com



IAN KETEKU

Ian Keteku is an articulation of a generation's heartbeat. A magician with syntax, a word sorcerer conjuring new realities, sound paintings, all in an attempt to better understand our existence.

Keteku is the 2010 World Poetry Slam champion. Ian Keteku also uses his voice to speak for the voiceless and inspire messages of peace, action and critical thought.

He has performed his poetry and music all over the world and continues to plant seeds of poetic justice globally. Ian is also part of the critically acclaimed spoken word troupe "The Recipe". Ian Keteku has shared the stage with some of the most lauded names in literature and music.

In addition to performances, Keteku conducts poetry, writing and performance workshops for youth and various community groups. Inspiring people to accept the power of their own voice.

Keteku is also a journalist who has been featured in CBC, Toronto Star, Ottawa Citizen, TVO and countless other broadcast and print publications.



AUDIENCE REACTIONS:

Here are some audience reactions from test screenings since IF THE POET has not had its world premiere yet. Press praise soon come.

“WOW! IF is amazing!”

“Fantastic! A loving portrait of a fascinating individual.”

“You’ve focused on a truly compelling character with great stage presence. It’s a very unpredictable and unexpected story. “

“Nothing short of awesome. The buildup. The finale. Blew me away.”

“A masterpiece. Shows the Canadian slam scene at its best and IF at the height of his beautiful, authentic power.”



CREDITS:

DIRECTOR / PRODUCER

Kim Saltarski

CINEMATOGRAPHER / CO-PRODUCER

Ted Parkes

Featuring

IF THE POET

Ian French

With

Ian Keteku

POETS

Audrey Lane Cockett, Andre Prefontaine, Sabrina Benaim,
Patrick de Belen, Kaz Mega, Inali Barger, Erin Cotton, Kay'la Fraser
C-Command, Erin Dingle, Dia Davina, Fannon Holland

CIPS FINALS HOST

Zaccheus Jackson

INTERVIEWEES

Dan Murray, Dagmar Morgan, Andre Prefontaine, Patrick de Belen,
Greg Frankson, Jillian Christmas, Sandy French, Dave Longhorn,
Lise St-Arnaud, Matisse St-Arnaud-French, Cathy Petch, Cael Zorn
Dwayne Morgan, Lillian Allen, Optimus Rhyme, Anto Chan,
Dave Silverberg, Chris Gilpin

CIPS PRELIMINARIES HOST

Sonya Littlejohn

EDITOR & B CAMERA

Kim Saltarski

CONSULTING EDITING GURUS

Andrew Kines, Terry Martindale

SOUND

Roderick Matte, Alain Letourneau, Ted Parkes, Joseph Harcourt

MUSIC

Brock Fricker, AS IF, Orin Issacs, Nathanael Larochette, Dave Wall,
dexter dwinklemeyer

POST PRODUCTION AUDIO

Brock Fricker - Brock Sound Productions

MOTION GRAPHICS

Vikram Dasgupta - Pixel Palette Inc.

INSPIRATIONAL GUIDANCE

Gina Dineen

ADDITIONAL CAMERA

Greg van Riel, Terry Parkes, John Forbes, Patrick Baker

INTERN

Patrick Baker

PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS

Terry Parkes, John Forbes, Sarah Hart

COLOURIST

Nathan Winspear

POST SUPERVISOR / DATA WRESTLER

Girt Zuggo

WEB DESIGN

Joe Deagon - Chicken Outfit Media

ACCOUNTANT

Wendie Saltarski

STILL PHOTOGRAPHY

French Family Photos, Roderick Matte, Helen Suk, Ian Keteku
Richard Glen Lett, Dave & Karen Longhorn, Evil Patrick

LEGAL

Ron Hay - Stohn Hay Cafazzo Dembroski Richmond LLP

INSURANCE

Steve Beatty, Michelle Moore - cultureONE
Julie Wong - Everest Insurance Co. of Canada

FOOTAGE COURTESY OF:

Verses Festival - Videographer: Duncan Shields
Guelph Spoken Word - Videographer: Mark MacKinnon
2013 Buffalo International Poetry Slam
Videographer: Carl Bailey for Njozi Productions
Univox Choir Toronto - Videographers: Vitold Vidic
& Graham Robinson

IAN KETEKU APARTMENT ART

Komi Olaf

LOCATIONS

The Drake Hotel, The Measure, The Central, The Rhino
Havana Restaurant & Theatre, Café Deux Soleils, Rio Theatre

BRAVOFACTUAL WONDER PEEPS

Rachel Goldstein-Couto, Bob Culbert, Nathan Schwartz
Gina Dineen, Kate Yorga

SPECIAL THANKS

Dave Silverberg - Toronto Poetry Slam
Greg Frankson - Cytopoetics & Bill Brown Slam 1-2-3 Toronto
Patrick de Belen - BAM! Toronto Youth Slam
Bänoo Zan - Shab-e She'r (Poetry Night)
Dwayne Morgan - Up From The Roots
Chris Gilpin & Jillian Christmas & shayne avec i grec
Verses Festival & CIPS 2014 & Vancouver Poetry House
Moe Clark - CFSW 2013
Ntare Ali Gault & Erika Gault - Buffalo Int'l Poetry Slam
First Unitarian of Toronto

EVEN MORE THANKS

RC Weslowski, Magpie Ulysses, Brendan McLeod
Scribe, Sir Realist, Same Difference, Macer
2013 Toronto Poetry Slam Team: David Delisca
(aka Dahveed Delisca), Sarah Zeiler Kligman (aka Kliggy)
Richard Glen Lett (aka Optimus Rhyme), Jason Pennells
(aka Philosofly), Angela Donald & HLP+ Partners
Northern Lights Direct: Sandy French, Jane French
Luc Bourgon, Anna Fowles, Jasmina Emmanuel
Annia Vuthirong, Nick Paulozza, Greg van Riel
Ben Rotterman, Joe Muller, Prime Minister Peedro
Sue Berlove, Karen Hawes, JP & Elizabeth Pawliw-Fry
Alison Reid, Allan Novak, Fred Kamping, Tom Wolsky
Mark Montefiore, Dallas Bergen, Lucas Marchand
Barbara Cuden, Hayet Benkara, Joanne Jackson
Apple Gurus: Dave, Josh, Andrew, Kevin
Karina Rotenstein. Atul Rao, Tina Grewal, Mark Skelding
Gill Deacon & Marichka Melnyk of CBC Radio
Tracey Kadish & Mohawk College, Martin Earl, Mathew Hart
Joe Garcia, Stephan Williams, Don Zablony, Mia Neilson
Dr. Nick Argyropoulos, Jeanette Wayne, Shawn Newton
Rod & Sheila & Brendan Patterson, Sandra Solonik
& all the amazing poets and volunteers at CIPS 2014

LOVE & SUPPORT SUPER SQUAD

Wendie, Maya & Jason Saltarski, Wendy Parkes
Lise St-Arnaud, Matisse St-Arnaud-French

DEDICATED TO:

Margaret Agnes Robertson
1923-2014

Felix Saltarski
1930-2014

Zaccheus Jackson
1978-2014

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