



June 8, 2021

Prospero Pictures and Shannon Masters partner to adapt

Michelle Good's *Five Little Indians* for the Screen

Prospero Pictures and Shannon Masters have partnered to acquire the option to author Michelle Good's award-winning novel, *Five Little Indians* for adaptation as a limited series. Martin Katz, Karen Wookey and Shannon Masters will Executive Produce with Shannon Masters as Writer and Show Runner of the adaptation.

Five Little Indians was released by HarperCollins in April 2020 and follows five residential school survivors and the challenges they face in overcoming tremendous psychological injury from their time in institutions mandated to implement a colonial agenda of assimilation and termination. *Five Little Indians* was longlisted for the Giller Prize, finalist for the Writer's Trust Award, winner of the Amazon First Novel Award and the Governor General's Literary Award.

Masters, whose credits include the feature film *Empire of Dirt* as well as the television productions *Coroner*, *Cardinal* and *Burden of Truth*, said "Michelle Good's beautiful novel pulled me in and held me close until the last word. So stunning I dove straight back in to read it again. It's an incredible honour to work with Michelle to transition her book to the screen."

Good, a retired lawyer, award-winning novelist and member of the Red Pheasant Cree Nation in Saskatchewan said "I am delighted to place this work in the hands of the brilliant and insightful Cree Métis writer Shannon Masters. This story must be told in every way we can and with such insight into genocide I am confident that Prospero Pictures will create a beautiful rendition of the joy the love and the horror of this story."

Katz, whose credits include the award-winning features *Hotel Rwanda*, *Shake Hands with the Devil* and numerous films with renowned filmmaker David Cronenberg, as well as the upcoming Charles Officer urban thriller, *Akilla's Escape*, said "Karen and I are humbled by the opportunity to work with Shannon to bring Michelle's significant and timely work to the screen. Her story can help us to remember and come to terms with the historical and ongoing injustices of our society, just as *Roots*, *Shoah*, *Hotel Rwanda* and *The Underground Railroad* have done."

Michelle Good is a Cree writer and a member of the Red Pheasant Cree Nation in Saskatchewan. After working for Indigenous organizations for twenty-five years, she obtained a law degree and advocated for residential school survivors for over fourteen years. Good earned a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing at the University of British Columbia while still practising law and managing her own law firm. Her poems, short stories, and essays have been published in magazines and anthologies across Canada, and her poetry was included on two lists of the best Canadian poetry in 2016 and 2017. *Five Little Indians*, her first novel, won the HarperCollins/UBC Best New Fiction Prize. Michelle Good now lives and writes in the southern interior of British Columbia.

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Shannon Masters is currently a writer/co-executive producer on her third season of CBC's *Coroner*. She was a writer/co-producer for three seasons of *Burden of Truth*, writer/story editor for CTV's dark drama *Cardinal* and Global Television's *Private Eyes*. Masters' feature *Empire of Dirt* began its festival run at TIFF 2013. That same year Masters was nominated and won the CSA for Best Original Screenplay. Creative Advisor for the 2014 ImagineNative Feature Script Development Lab, 2013 TIFF Talent Lab participant, 2013 Shaw Media Writers Apprentice and participant of the 2012 WGC Bell Media's Diverse Screenwriters Program, Masters was the first International participant of the 2008 Tribeca All Access program in New York, recipient of the Spring 2007 Praxis Centre for Screenwriters Fellowship, and graduate of the CFC's 2005 Film Resident Writer's Lab. Cree Métis and Ukrainian from Southern Saskatchewan, currently living in Toronto, Masters is a member of the Métis Nation of Ontario

Martin Katz is Founder and President of Prospero Pictures. One of the most prolific feature film producers in Canada, Martin's credits include *Hotel Rwanda*, and over two decades producing films with celebrated director David Cronenberg, including *Maps to the Stars*, for which Julianne Moore received the Best Actress Palme d'Or at Cannes. Prospero's television projects as include *Ice Road Truckers*, one of History Channel's highest-rated documentary series, and *Spectacle: Elvis Costello With...*, an award-winning music and performance series hosted by Elvis Costello co-produced with Sir Elton John's Rocket Pictures. The Chicago Tribune called it "the best television series ever made about music."

Karen Wookey is an industry veteran, having produced feature films and over five hundred hours of series television, both scripted and unscripted. As Supervising Producer at Fireworks International, Wookey was responsible for three action-adventure series, *Gene Rodenberry's Andromeda*, *Mutant X* and *Adventure Inc*. In 2009, in partnership with Original Productions, she produced the first dramatic movie for Discovery Channel, *Deadliest Sea*, based on the tragic true story of a fishing vessel, which disappeared in a storm on the Bering Sea. As a Showrunner, Wookey has created and produced a number of shows for television including *Crimes of Passion*, a doc series exploring intimate partner homicide, *Intervention Canada*, and *Vegas Rat Rods*, for Discovery Channel and AETN, as well as four seasons of *Ice Road Truckers*.