

## Paul Bronfman Biography

A graduate of the University of Toronto, Paul Bronfman launched his career in the entertainment industry in the mid-1970s, working in the music industry with such hit bands as *Supertramp* and *April Wine*. By the late 1970s, Bronfman had transitioned to the film and television industry and went on to hold a number of executive positions at Astral Bellevue Pathe (now Astral Media Inc.) over the next ten years.

Bronfman founded Comweb Corporation in 1988 and over the years has built a group of horizontally integrated entertainment firms dedicated to providing expert production services, studio facilities, and equipment to the Canadian and international film and television industry.

Comweb's first industry endeavor was to build and manage Canada's first Hollywood-style studio complex, North Shore Studios in Vancouver, in partnership with well-known Hollywood producer/writer Stephen J. Cannell. North Shore Studios is well known as the original home of the smash television series hit, *The X-Files*.

In late 1989, Comweb acquired a controlling interest in William F. White International Inc. (WFW), one of the world's premier providers of state-of-the-art lighting, grip, camera support and related specialty film and television production equipment. Founded in Toronto in 1963, WFW has provided unparalleled technical production expertise to Canadian and international producers, directors, cinematographers, and technicians for nearly 5 decades. The company has offices in Vancouver, Calgary, Regina, Winnipeg, Halifax and Toronto.

WFW is also partners with world-renowned, Oscar<sup>®</sup> award-winning cinematographer Vilmos Zsigmond in Sparks Camera & Lighting Ltd., a leading Budapest, Hungary-based provider of motion picture production equipment servicing western and eastern European markets. Sparks is also a duly authorized Panavision agent.

WFW owns and operates CinequipWhite Inc., one of Canada's largest full-service sales and service companies to the broadcast, video, film, entertainment, and theatrical industries.

Comweb Corporation is the majority shareholder of William F. White International Inc. In addition to its holdings in WFW [through Comweb Corp.], Comweb is the second largest voting shareholder of Astral Media Inc. Mr. Bronfman is an active member of the Board of Directors and Compensation Committee of Astral Media Inc., one of Canada's leading public media companies.

Comweb is an active partner in Pinewood Toronto Studios, a world class, state-of-the-art film and television production facility. The studio lot includes 260,000 square feet of production facilities. Foremost among the seven state-of-the-art film stages is the 45,900 square foot Mega-Stage, North America's largest purpose built film studio.

Mr. Bronfman is the Chairman/CEO of Comweb Group Inc. and William F. White International Inc. He is also the Chairman of Pinewood Toronto Studios Inc. Comweb pursues its motion picture and television production activities through its wholly owned subsidiary Comweb Productions Inc.

In 1993 Comweb created Protocol Entertainment Inc. Protocol's activities included development, financing, and production of TV series, movies, miniseries, and feature films for the North American and international markets. The company created a number of highly acclaimed audience winning productions including the worldwide hit television series, *'Goosebumps.'* This sensational show won the number one ratings slot for its demographic in the United States on the Fox Kids Network in its premiere season in 1995. *'Goosebumps'* was sold to broadcasters in over 105 countries throughout the world. Comweb sold its interest in Protocol in 2005.

Paul Bronfman's dedication to fostering and developing new talent in Canada's film and television industry is well-known. His company sponsors numerous college and university film programs, industry initiatives and relevant organizations including the Banff World Media Festival, Toronto International Film Festival, Vancouver International Film Festival, Atlantic Film Festival, Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival as well as Norman Jewison's Canadian Film Centre, just to name a few.

Bronfman serves or has served on numerous industry boards and committees including The Board of Directors and Governors of the Banff World Television Festival, The Board of Directors and National Advisory Committee of the Canadian Film Centre and the Board of Directors of FilmOntario. FilmOntario is a private sector consortium 30,000 strong, of companies, producers, unions, guilds and organizations within the Ontario screen-based sector (film & television and interactive media). In 2010, Bronfman was elected to serve on the Board of Directors for the OMDC, an agency of the Ministry of Culture.

Paul Bronfman is active in the community and contributes to a number of national and local charities. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Centre for Holocaust Studies. As well he serves on the Board of Governors of B'nai B'rith Canada and Mt. Sinai Hospital in Toronto. In 2002, Variety the Children's Charity recognized Mr. Bronfman's outstanding accomplishments with a special gala tribute dinner in his honour.

In 2008, Mr. Bronfman, along with his wife Judy and Globe and Mail CEO Phillip Crawley, were awarded the prestigious Human Relations Award by the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews. This organization is a leading Canadian provider of programs and strategies that educate against discrimination, prejudice, and bias.

In 2011, Mr. Bronfman was inducted into Playback's Film & Television Hall of Fame, honouring his 30-plus years of exemplary industry service. He later received an Honourable Life Member Award from the Director's Guild of Canada along with the

Academy Board of Directors' Tribute for Outstanding and Enduring Contributions to Canadian Television at this year's Gemini Awards.