

Vancouver metro

Your essential daily news | WEEKEND, JANUARY 15-17, 2016

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JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

B.C. sound mixer gets Oscar nod

FILM INDUSTRY

The Revenant a true 'test' for Salt Spring Island man



Matt
Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

Salt Spring Island resident Chris Duesterdiek capped off an incredible week with an Oscar nomination on Thursday.

Duesterdiek was production sound mixer on Alejandro G. Inarritu's *The Revenant*, starring Leonardo DiCaprio, during a notoriously difficult shoot in the Canadian winter wilderness that has already become the stuff of Hollywood legend.

The long, cold days trudging through deep snow and forest in Alberta and British Columbia paid off on Thursday, as the film was nominated for 12 Academy Awards, including one

for sound mixing that saw Duesterdiek earn his first-ever Oscar nomination alongside Jon Taylor, Frank A. Montano and Randy Thom.

"It's pretty wild," said Duesterdiek, no pun intended. "When you're part of a team like the one Alejandro put together, you sort of know you may be dealing with something that could turn into lightning in a bottle."

On set, Duesterdiek and his team were given the daunting challenge of recording the actors' performances in an untamed environment and building up a library of sound that transported viewers back to the 1800s frontier.

The sound of feet crunching in snow, horses breathing and rivers flowing helped bring the frigid setting to life and garner the sound mixers critical acclaim.

In addition to recognition from the Academy Awards, Duesterdiek's work on *The Revenant* was also nominated this week for British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) and Cinema Audio Society (CAS) awards.



Chris Duesterdiek
endures the harsh
conditions during
filming. CONTRIBUTED

Beset by reports of crew defections and unrest, Duesterdiek admitted *The Revenant* was one of the most challenging shoots of his life, but doesn't regret the experience.

"I think you have to test yourself like that every now and then. When you're up against Mother Nature, Mother Nature usually wins. This was right up there," said Duesterdiek. "I wouldn't want the next (production) to be like that, I'll put it that way."

British Columbians Cameron Waldbauer (visual effects) and Hamish Purdy (production design) also received Oscar nominations for their work on *The Revenant*.

WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

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