

# DEAD MAN'S SWITCH

A CRYPTO MYSTERY

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

1X78 4K / 1X52 4K





## TRAILER

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DEAD MAN'S SWITCH a crypto mystery - TRAILER



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# WHERE'S THE MONEY, GERRY?

## LOGLINE SHORT

A thirty-year-old CEO, responsible for hundreds of millions of dollars, dies suddenly in India unleashing speculation that his exit was only one of many scams.

## LOGLINE LONG

A thirty-year-old CEO responsible for hundreds of millions of dollars in cryptocurrency and cash dies suddenly in India and \$215M disappears, kicking off a major scandal and fueling speculation that his exit was only one of many scams. Where's the money, Gerry?

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

\$215 million dollars in cash and cryptocurrency suddenly went missing on December 9th, 2018, when 30-year old Gerald Cotten, CEO of QuadrigaCX, one of North America's largest cryptocurrency exchanges, died very suddenly in India - or did he?

Gerry had kept many secrets, among them the key to the wallets that contained all the money - or had he scammed it all?

**Dead Man's Switch a crypto mystery** is a feature-length documentary that tracks a tantalizing and still unsolved story of deception, hope, greed, corruption, and the potential of unregulated currency to be used for both good and evil.

SUMMARY



## SUMMARY 1/2

**Dead Man's Switch a crypto mystery** is an entertaining and timely documentary that unpacks the mysterious and improbable story of Canadian CEO Gerald Cotten and his failed cryptocurrency exchange QuadrigaCX.

On November 30th, 2018, the 30-year old 'Gerry', then CEO of Canada's largest cryptocurrency exchange, traveled to India to open an orphanage and celebrate his honeymoon. Nine days later he was allegedly dead due to Crohn's disease, and \$215 million dollars in cash and cryptocurrency were suddenly missing.

A month later, when his widow, Jennifer Robertson, announced his death to the world via a post on the Quadriga exchange website, creditors, journalists, regulators and cryptocurrency enthusiasts alike jumped on the story. Determined to get to the bottom of what happened to Gerry and who held the keys to the fortunes of 115,000 creditors.

Through interviews with skeptics like crypto activist Mitch Airey and author David Gerard; independent journalists and financial analysts Amy Castor, Alexandra Posadzki and Taylor Monahan plus compliance regulators, friends, and creditors suffering real and sometimes **significant financial losses** – filmmaker Sheona McDonald fleshes out the story of Gerry's life, death & business dealings.

## SUMMARY 2/2

Every player has a different perspective or theory about what happened, what didn't happen or what needed to happen. But with over 200 million dollars-worth of Canadian fiat and cryptocurrency lost there is one question they all share "*Where's the money, Gerry?*".

QuadrigaCX is not the first exchange to be hacked or go under and it won't be the last. Questionable activity is a constant and serious factor in a contemporary industry growing quickly in an unregulated environment. The fact that hundreds of thousands of clients trusted QuadrigaCX with their money and left their funds and coins on the exchange shows that we are used to trusting a regulated system of banking and securities – what happens when there is no system to trust?

Gerry's story couldn't have happened in a vacuum. Without creditors eager to not miss out on quick, tax-free, unregulated gains, Gerry wouldn't have had a business or anyone to take advantage of. This raises the question, not only of regulation, but of responsibility - individual and collective.

On the surface Gerry's story is one of personal tragedy, not just for Gerry, but for the thousands of creditors who trusted this young entrepreneur with their millions of dollars. At its core this is a film about human-nature, greed, and navigating the wild west of a dark new world.

CREW BIOS





PRODUCER, DIRECTOR, WRITER

## SHEONA MCDONALD

Sheona, an award-winning filmmaker, has worked in the Canadian film & television industry as a writer, producer and director, for over two decades. Recent films include **Dead Man's Switch: a crypto mystery**, **Into Light**, **Candice**, **A Short Essay on Men** and **Inside Her Sex**. Sheona also directed season two of **Emergency Room: Life and Death at VGH** for *Knowledge Network*.

Recently, her feature film script, **Back By Midnight** was optioned by Screen Siren Pictures.

Sheona is currently writing her first novel.

She lives in Vancouver with her husband and three children.

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER  
**BETSY CARSON**

Betsy is an award-winning producer/ EP / director with over 30 years experience in documentary film, television, and digital projects. She has collaborated for decades with filmmakers Nettie Wild, Gary Marcuse, Hugh Brody and Mark Achbar, and has produced over 100 hours of documentary projects ranging from series television to theatrical features, interactive sites and public art installation. Currently in production: **The New Corporation** - a sequel to the groundbreaking 2003 feature documentary **The Corporation**, and the **Global Environmental Justice Project**, directed and curated by Gary Marcuse.





EDITOR

**NESS VAN HASSEL**

A story teller at heart, with a passion for music and photography, editing was love at first slice for Ness. After graduating with an honours degree in psychology from Queen's University and Media Diploma from Capilano University, Ness began her editing career working on independent documentaries such as **The Corporation** and **Fix: The Story of an Addicted City**. Since then, she's continued to refine her craft, cutting hours of broadcast programming in both factual and drama disciplines. While it used to be common to find Ness strumming the ukulele on the beach at sunset after a game of beach volleyball, nowadays she's more likely to be found singing nursery rhymes and chasing her two young spirited daughters.



## CINEMATOGRAPHERS

### SIMON SCHNEIDER

Simon Schneider is an award-winning cinematographer with over 16 years of experience in series and feature documentary. Bringing a cinematic and dramatic approach to unscripted narratives, Simon's work has aired on networks and at festivals all over the world. His career highlights include working as series DP on premium documentary series like **FIRST IN HUMAN** (3 x 120, Discovery, 2017) and **MINISTRY OF EVIL** (4 x 60, SundanceTV/AMC, 2019) and award-winning feature documentaries including **LIBERTY: MOTHER OF EXILES** (HBO, 2019), **WHALE AND THE RAVEN** (NFB, 2019) and **HADWIN'S JUDGEMENT** (NFB/PASSION PICTURES, 2015). Simon has worked alongside some of the most prominent documentary directors in the industry like Davis Guggenheim (**AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH**) and in 2019 he filmed a music video for Elton John's final tour, Farewell Yellow Brick Road.

### MONICA GUDDAT

Monica Guddat is a Toronto-based cinematographer and camera operator who works primarily in documentary and drama. Telling stories with moving pictures is what she loves to do. She has concurrently spent many years teaching cinematography and production but is now focusing on shooting.

MUSIC COMPOSER

## DANIEL ROSS

Daniel is an award-winning composer, songwriter, and music producer. He has accumulated a lengthy list of film, television, and music production credits spanning multiple genres. Principally a guitarist, as a multi-instrumentalist Dan has expanded his scores and music production into the electronic realm and the unlimited possibilities of combining traditional elements with new approaches to create hybrid scores.

ANIMATION

## ELECTRIC SQUARE

Mark started animating as a kid when he discovered the seemingly limitless potential of a VHS camcorder, stop motion and plasticine monsters. Much later he attended the Centre for Digital Imaging and Sound in their Visual Effects Masters program before entering into a diverse career that has touched on motion capture direction, graphic design for corporate identity, and VFX creative director for many broadcast television projects. He has contributed to the TV series **The Nature of Things, Things That Move, Canadian Made, What's In A Name, and The Polar Sea**. He has designed the visual effects and animation for the films 2009 HotDocs Special Jury Prize winner, **Waterlife, When Dreams Take Flight, Wakening, and Nocturne**.

He currently resides in Toronto where he runs his visual effects studio *Electric Square* with his wife Karen Suzuki.

GRAPHIC / MOTION DESIGN

## BRENDAN CAVE

From pitchbook to final cut, Brendan takes design and animation from conception to completion. Brendan created the key art for **Working People: A History of Labour in British Columbia**, key art and motion design for *Network Entertainment's I Am* series including **Steve McQueen, Evel Knievel, Chris Farley** and **Bruce Lee** as well as **Johnny Cash - American Rebel**. Recent work includes art and motion for the graphics heavy **Dead Man's Switch - A Crypto Mystery** and art and VFX for The National Film Board of Canada short film **Into Light**.

When not running his one man studio *Pique Media*, you can find him at the beach or on a mountain, in Vancouver where he lives.

# PARTICIPANT BIOS



## MITCH AIREY

### CRYPTO ENTHUSIAST

Mitch Airey is a Maritime-based crypto enthusiast who held a one-person protest outside of the Halifax Courthouse when Quadriga CX's bankruptcy proceedings began in February, 2019.

## AMY CASTOR

### INDEPENDENT JOURNALIST

Amy Castor is an independent journalist based in the U.S. She writes about the world of crypto, and was one of the main journalists writing about Gerry Cotten and Quadriga CX after his death.

## DR. BRIAN BRESSLER

### GASTROENTEROLOGIST

Dr. Bressler is a gastroenterologist, and an expert on inflammatory bowel disease and Crohn's. In addition to teaching at the University of British Columbia, he works at St. Paul's Hospital. We asked him how rare it is for a 30-year-old to die of complications from Crohn's disease.

## DAVID GERARD

### INDEPENDENT JOURNALIST AND AUTHOR

David Gerard is a British crypto-skeptic, and the author of "The Attack of the 50-foot Blockchain".

## JOE CASTALDO

### JOURNALIST GLOBE AND MAIL

Joe Castaldo is a reporter for The Globe and Mail's Report on Business. He reported extensively on Quadriga CX and Gerald Cotten's life leading up to his death.





## NATHAN VANDERKLIPPE

JOURNALIST GLOBE AND MAIL

Nathan Vanderklippe is the Asia correspondent for The Globe and Mail. He reported on the final days of Gerry Cotten, writing a definitive account for The Globe.

## TAYLOR MONAHAN

CEO MYCRYPTO

Taylor Monahan founded a wallet service for people who use Ethereum, called MyCrypto. She spent weeks analysing the Blockchain to see where all of Quadriga's money wound up.

## RYAN

QUADRIGA CREDITOR

Ryan lost his savings when Quadriga CX collapsed. He became an advocate for other creditors and is part of a court-appointed committee representing the nearly 115,000 people affected by QCX.

## ALEXANDRA POSADZKI

JOURNALIST GLOBE AND MAIL

Alexandra Posadski is a reporter with the Globe and Mail's Report on Business. She's covered cryptocurrency since 2013, and did extensive reporting on the Quadriga case.



## ALEX SALKELD

### BITCOIN EDUCATOR AND ENTHUSIAST

Alex Salkeld has been in the crypto world for nearly a decade. He does Bitcoin outreach and education in Vancouver, and knew Gerry Cotten and Michael Patryn when they first founded Quadriga CX.



## AMBER D. SCOTT

### CEO OUTLIER SOLUTIONS

Amber Scott is an anti-money laundering consultant, who has worked with the cryptocurrency community in Canada. She's the founder and CEO of Outlier Solutions. She knew Gerry as a friend, but hesitated to do business with him.



## ANDREW WAGNER

### CRYPTO EDUCATOR

Andrew Wagner is a firm believer in crypto and the blockchain. He knew Gerry Cotten and Michael Patryn when the three were involved with DCNTRL, a cryptocurrency community in Vancouver.

## TONG ZOU

### QUADRIGA CREDITOR

Tong Zou is a Canadian who lost his life savings -- more than half a million dollars-- when Quadriga CX collapsed. In order to dig himself out of debt, he had to sell his San Francisco apartment. He went public, partly blaming himself for his loss, in a vlog.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



## FAQ 1/3

### WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THIS STORY?

After working in this business for over two decades, I have come to believe that I don't choose the story, the story chooses me. I had inadvertently pitched the subject of cryptocurrency to a broadcaster in December 2017 (a year before Quadriga collapsed), I didn't have a film in mind I'd just become curious about the broader idea of crypto. As a result of this "pitch", I had been given a little bit of development money but was ultimately challenged to find a story that caught my interest enough to invest the years it would take to make a film.

By December 2018, I was trying to get out of it all. I was considering changing topics entirely or just returning the development financing and moving on with other things.

Then, in January 2019, I saw the QuadrigaCX notice about Gerald's sudden death in India posted and, following that, the notice of creditor protection, I immediately understood that this was the reason I had the funding. I could feel it in my bones, this was the story I was meant to tell.

### WHAT WAS THE HARDEST PART ABOUT MAKING THIS FILM?

There were many hard parts.

The first thing that had to be done was deep and intense research – about QuadrigaCX, about cryptocurrency, about exchanges, about Gerry, about the structure of the business, about regulation, about all of the people involved. There was a lot to understand. I feel very fortunate that my key researcher, Polly Leger, came on board and worked tirelessly to dig and explore and expand and understand every nuance of the story and the people and the world.

Secondly, was how to tell this story. Who would help tell it both on camera and off? How would we balance the business of QuadrigaCX, the life of Gerald Cotten, the explanations of all things crypto? How would we make it simple and complex enough?

We were challenged by COVID, but I'll tackle that next.

The final significant challenge was that of bringing together all of the elements. We used animation, motion graphics, visual effects, recreations, stock footage, and found footage in addition to interviews. It was a lot to manage and keep track of.

## FAQ 2/3

### WHAT WAS THE MOST REWARDING PART ABOUT MAKING THIS FILM?

The people. The creativity. The collaboration.

On and off camera, I had the pleasure to work with a tremendous team of passionate and dedicated people.



### HOW DID COVID-19 IMPACT PRODUCTION?

Covid had a significant impact on production and post-production.

We were gearing up to do a really big trip. We had interviews booked in New York City, Toronto, Montreal in April 2020 and were also considering when we were going to go to India. There were other, potential, interviewees in Europe that we were considering going to.

When COVID hit, I had to consider whether to cease production and wait or press on. We had already planned to start post-production in May 2020 and Ness Van Hassel (editor) had set time aside. Pushing everything off felt like it would create an endless production cycle, so we decided to look at what we already had and go from there.

We started to lay out story lines and through-lines and then started to figure out creative ways to get the things we needed. We hired crews to film in various cities, a local crew in Jaipur; a crew in LA for pick-up shots; and a crew in Toronto. We also figured out how to shoot recreations in Vancouver in the Summer of 2020.

Had COVID not happened, it would be a different film with different contributors but it feels like it all worked out well in the end.

## FAQ 3/3

### WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT CRYPTOCURRENCY?

Many years of studying this subject have led me to understand that I am not the one to answer this question. I have no expertise. It is a vast and complicated landscape. Cryptocurrency is many things - there are thousands of cryptocurrencies, each with a story.

I think it is an intriguing world that should be approached (from an investment perspective) with much care and caution. It is a buyer beware/ read the fine print/don't invest what you're not prepared to lose proposition.

It also has lots of potential and as cryptocurrency seeps more and more into the mainstream I think it is something that we can't ignore, something that is here to stay and something that is worth taking note of.

### DO YOU THINK GERALD COTTEN IS DEAD?

Personally, I think it is most likely that Gerald Cotten died in India. However, I think that part of the richness and intrigue in his story is that I cannot answer this question with 100% certainty and there are few people who can.

Regardless of whether Gerry died in India or if there is a more complex explanation for his disappearance, we tried not to lose sight of the fact that Gerald Cotten was a human being, a husband, a son, a brother – and there are some truly tragic elements to this situation for many people who were involved on all sides of this story.

COMPANY PROFILES





PRODUCTION

## DIMESTORE PRODUCTIONS

[Dimestore Productions Inc.](#) is a small production company based in Vancouver, BC. Established in 2001 by Sheona McDonald, Dimestore's focus has been to make high-quality documentary programming for Canadian and international markets.

Previous films include [Candice](#), [A Short Essay on Men](#), Inside Her Sex and When Dreams Take Flight.



DISTRIBUTION

## ESPRESSO

Espresso Media International has over 20 years experience as an International TV distributor on licensing documentaries, factual entertainment and lifestyle content worldwide plus assisting their producers with pre sales, project development and coproduction.

With a boutique style Espresso manages over 900 hours of content from their International producers (some award winning), representing all media rights to their global client base of FTA, Cable/Satellite, In Flight, Educational and New Media platforms.

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SUPPORT MATERIAL



## PROMO VIDEOS



[View on YouTube](#)

*"A pretty big story"*

Globe and Mail reporter Alexandra Posadzki talks about first hearing about the QuadrigaCX story



[View on YouTube](#)

*"Super high risk"*

Outlier Solutions founder Amber D. Scott gives her best investment advice for high risk investments.



[View on YouTube](#)

*"All the money is gone"*

Participants share what their initial thoughts were when they heard the QuadrigaCX site had gone down.

## STILL IMAGES 1/2



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## STILL IMAGES 2/2



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## ADDITIONAL SUPPORT MATERIAL

 [First Report](#) of the Monitor

 [Second Report](#) of the Monitor

 [Third Report](#) of the Monitor

 [Fourth Report](#) of the Monitor

 [Fifth Report](#) of the Monitor

 [Jennifer's Affidavit](#)

 [OSC Full Report](#)

The snappy online version (which doesn't have everything) can be found [Here](#)

 [Taylor's spreadsheet](#) recording Quadriga blockchain interactions

Note: This is a massive file to download or host

 [Folder: "Best Gerry Articles"](#)

18 media stories that tell the rise and fall of Gerry Cotten, index has URLs

 [Death Certificate](#)