

The Lie Detective



photo credit: Dan Power

13 half-hour episodes

The Lie Detective

Thirteen-Part Documentary Series Introduction

You Can't Run from the Truth

The Lie Detective is a character-driven documentary series that follows the work of independent Polygraph Examiner and self-professed truth seeker, Ken Donaldson, as he helps people from all walks of life in their quest for truth, resolution, and freedom from deception.

Whether it's a husband desperate to know if his wife is having an affair, an employer who suspects an employee of stealing, athletes hoping to prove they are drug-free, or a grandfather denying accusations of sexual assault, Ken sees it all. Since opening ITR Polygraph Service five years ago, business has grown steadily, and the series reveals to audiences the fascinating variety of cases that come Ken's way. "I study the science of how a person's mind affects their body. When the words coming out of the person's mouth don't match with what their physiology is telling me, we have a problem," says Ken.

Each half-hour episode begins with an individual in search of the truth. Ken helps them face difficult questions and find answers that can change their lives – for better or worse. "We see a lot of people who have a great deal of pain in their lives, and they can't get past something," says series producer Ava Karvonen. "Polygraph can be a kind of therapy and can help with healing and resolution."

Watch Ken as he cracks a new case each week, using his skills and his polygraph equipment to bring us the whole truth and nothing but the truth.



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Series Synopsis

Certified forensic psychophysiologicalist, Ken Donaldson, helps people who are on a quest for the truth. Each episode features a person in search of answers, whether for professional or personal reasons. Ken begins the process of separating fact from fiction with an interview that lets all parties put their cards on the table – or at least the cards they’re willing to show.

Based on his findings, Ken focuses on each client’s single most important concern - fidelity, abuse, theft, drug use or any other area of potential deception – to design what he calls a specific issue test. After discussing a series of carefully designed questions with the client, the examinee is placed in the hot seat, hooked up to the polygraph machine, and questioned repeatedly.

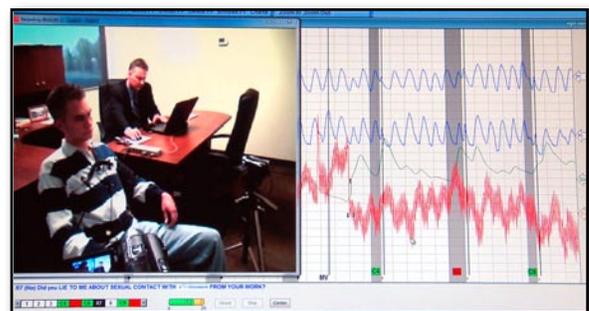
When tension becomes agonizing for clients and their loved ones, Ken's business partner and wife, Lesley, steps in to offer her own brand of comfort to stressed-out clients. “Where Ken deals in black and white facts, I deal with the anxiety and apprehension surrounding emotionally difficult cases – not as a counselor, but as someone who’s had a lot of life experiences and can understand what people are going through,” says Lesley.

Soon after the polygraph exam is completed and Ken evaluates his findings, he reveals to his anxious clients who is telling the truth and who is being deceptive. Armed with hard facts – and a few words of insightful advice – his clients can move forward with their lives.

Now add to the mix that Ken and Lesley are the proud parents of four children under the age of sixteen. As they juggle the demands of parenting and entrepreneurship, interesting parallels between their work life and home life begin to emerge. Together they must balance the challenge of raising their children with the challenge of running a business that deals in honesty and deception.



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The Lie Detective

Episode Synopses



Episode One – Body Builders Never Cheat?

Banned substances are a big problem in the world of body building. Ken is hired by Matthew Park of International Natural Bodybuilding & Fitness, Canada, whose premier competition is fast approaching. Ken must polygraph all athletes to ensure their chiseled physiques were achieved without drugs. Not only is Matt's reputation on the line, but for the athletes, being branded a cheater is death to their natural body building careers. The pressure is on Ken to keep the competition fair for everyone.



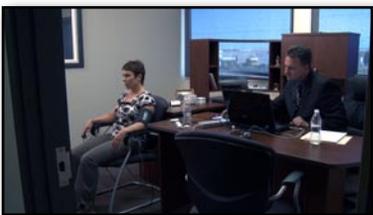
Episode Two – Relationship 101

Ken and Lesley move into a bigger office to accommodate their booming business. Enter young couple, Brandon and Amber. Brandon invented fantastic stories about himself and his sex life to impress Amber, the girl he hopes to marry. But Brandon's lies add up to one big question for Amber: Can she trust Brandon enough to spend her life with him?



Episode Three – A Grandfather's Defense

A grandfather comes to Ken's office with an emotionally disturbing case. Alienated by his family, the man wants to clear his name of allegations that he sexually molested his granddaughter. Ken must find out if he's an innocent man or a sexual predator.



Episode Four – Haunted by the Past

Jacqueline thought she had met the man of her dreams – someone she could trust. After all, they both knew the pain of being burned by a cheating spouse from past relationships. But his pain and mistrust still haunts him, and now Jacqueline is the target of his suspicions. With her man's increasingly bizarre paranoia threatening to destroy their relationship, Jacqueline turns to Ken for help.



Episode Five – Bar Thieves Beware

Ken helps Brewhouse owner Roger combat theft in his bar by conducting periodic polygraph screenings of his employees – a practice the bartenders support because it creates an environment of trust. Cam, the most recently hired bartender is next up to undergo the polygraph. But sometimes Ken's investigations lead to unexpected confessions. Will Cam's future at the Brewhouse be jeopardized by his past?

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Episode Synopses



Episode Six – Lies in Her Eyes

After three kids and fourteen years together, Allan is still haunted by the memory of Jodi's infidelity early in their relationship. "I can't see truth when I look in her eyes," says Allan. He's so paralyzed by suspicion that he quits his job to keep an eye on Jodi. Despite their deep love for one another, the problem is getting worse. They need Ken's help now.



Episode Seven – "If He Passes, He's Psychotic"

Gail is obsessed with the idea that her husband, Len, is cheating on her with every free moment. Len claims he has not returned to his ways of the past, and that Gail's heavy pain medication keeps her from seeing what's real. Ken's investigation reveals many sides to a convoluted story. Can Ken sort through the confusion to find where the truth lies and save their forty-three year marriage?



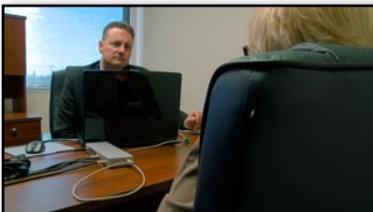
Episode Eight – Internet Addiction

Military man Stephen has long used the internet as a means to seduce women. In fact it's how he met his current wife, Koren. But when Koren learns details about Stephen's internet philandering, she wants to know, has Stephen really given up his sexual escapades? With Stephen's year-long deployment to Iraq looming, the polygraph is his last chance to prove love and loyalty to Koren.



Episode Nine – Wedding Day Limbo

A woman from Travis' past surfaces on Facebook and she's on a mission to sabotage his love life. His fiancée, Heather, has caught him lying before, so Travis is desperate to deny additional accusations. With their wedding in Las Vegas called off, Travis contacts Ken. If Travis can't prove his innocence he'll lose Heather forever.



Episode Ten – Tarnished Reputation

A lonely housewife comes to Ken with the story of her 37-year marriage. After years of believing that her husband is unfaithful, she's finally ready to walk away. But as Ken questions her, he has concerns and decides not to polygraph her until he checks her story. Will Ken separate fact from fiction and will she get her polygraph exam?

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Episode Synopses



Episode Eleven – “I Want My Kids Back”

A mother of two had her children taken away by child welfare authorities. She is convinced she was judged an unfit mother because of her claim to have psychic abilities, but Ken learns there is more to this case. In a complicated story that involves murder allegations and allegedly flawed court documents, Ken must decide if he can help close the gap between this mother and her children.



Episode Twelve – Rules of Engagement

For sixteen years, Adam and Angel have enjoyed the spice of an open relationship. But now, looking forward to marriage, their swinging lifestyle leaves Adam with lingering questions. As Ken digs into the rules of their complicated relationship he finds far more than he ever expected. Will the polygraph be enough to help this couple move forward with their lives?



Episode Thirteen – Forgotten Affair?

A volatile couple comes to Ken with what appears to be one clear question: did she have an affair with her brother-in-law twelve years ago? If the accusation is true, why does she have no memory of the betrayal? As Ken fills in the blanks, a story of anger and pain emerges. With wounds so deep, can this couple hope to find trust in their shattered relationship?

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Quotable Quotes

People are afraid of getting caught in their lie. It's a fear response that I'm looking for - breathing patterns will change, the heart will go faster, blood will rush from the extremities, digestion stops, salivation stops. These are things that just happen instantly, that we can't control.

Ken Donaldson, Polygraph Examiner

I've never taken a polygraph...it's an unknown experience...I felt like I was in court. It was that type of a feeling.

Mark, Polygraph Examinee

When we came out of the interview, I thought Ken must be an ex-police officer, or he must be something to do with the law, that's for sure. He didn't mess around.

Koren, Polygraph Client

I'm here because I'm accused of sexually assaulting my granddaughter. Something like this – you don't keep it inside. I want to put the record straight.

Grandfather, Polygraph Examinee

The internet was my version of the night club – of meeting women. I'm an officer in the US military, and they're supposed to be held at a high standard, yet the things that I've done to her make me feel ashamed of myself.

Stephen, Polygraph Examinee

I've just had enough accusations and constantly calling, "Where are you? Where are you going? Who are you talking to?" It's ruining my life...I'm trusting completely in the scientific process. What the outcome is, I don't know. I really don't know.

Jacqueline, Polygraph Examinee

During our relationship I did a little bit of lying. I am here today to gather truth for her and show her that I am the man that she originally wanted me to be, and the man that I always envisioned myself I am.

Brandon, Polygraph Examinee

They need someone to be able to tell them what's going on when they can't see. How else are they going to get to the truth? Come see me – take a polygraph.

Ken Donaldson, Polygraph Examiner

The Lie Detective

Biography, Ken and Lesley Donaldson Documentary Subjects



photo credit: Dan Power

Ken and Lesley Donaldson have been living and working together for so long, it's become second nature. It started when they realized their dream of moving to the country with their then two-year-old son, Alexander in 1994. They opened Donaldson's Country Market in Fawcett, Alberta. After ten busy years of running the store, housing the local post office, liquor store, and bakery, plus Ken's involvement with the local fire department, the birth of daughter, Paige, and twin daughters, Olivia and Juliet, the Donaldson's wanted a change.

They knew they still wanted to run their own business, and they knew from their days in Fawcett that they loved interacting with and helping people. Ken saw an increased need for security in the workplace as a result of the 9-11 attacks in the United States, and when he realized private polygraph examiners are few and far between, Ken found his passion and his new business venture. After attending the Academy of Polygraph Science in Largo, Florida, and graduating with top marks, Ken was ready to realize his dream. With Lesley by his side helping to manage the business, the doors to ITR Polygraph Service were opened.

Half of Ken and Lesley's work deals with the corporate sector and the other half with family and relationship issues. "Fidelity is probably the biggest issue I do with families but I also do trust and even addiction issues," says Ken. "I like the fact that in my line of work I get to help people tell the truth."

Five years later, Ken and Lesley have again opened their doors, this time to their office and their home, inviting audiences into their world of juggling family life with work life, and helping the clients that come to them for help. Ever-optimistic Lesley is excited to share their story. "We've gone through many challenges in our lives and I believe one of the blessings of overcoming those challenges is to be able to share them with others. That's how I see my role at work – I lend a supportive ear and a shoulder to lean on."

Ken's passion for his part of the business is equally evident. "I always think that there's somebody who is going to try and cheat, and if they're going to try, I'm going to catch them," he says of his work. But because impartiality is the cornerstone of the polygraph business, Ken goes on to say, "I like to hear both sides of the story and then run the test, because one person is going to tell me one story, another person is going to tell me another story, and in the middle somewhere we are going to find the truth."



photo credit: Dan Power

The Lie Detective

Biography, Eppo Eerkes

Director



photo credit: Dan Power

When Eppo learned about *The Lie Detective* project, he jumped on board for two reasons: first because he knew he wanted to work with producer Ava Karvonen. “Ava is known for her creativity and openness to ideas, so I was excited by that prospect,” he recalls. Second, he was fascinated with such a non-traditional way of working on relationship issues – the polygraph exam. “The polygraph is a machine that gives answers, but it’s more about Ken’s and Lesley’s interactions with clients.”

Eppo was also intrigued by the idea of telling these stories in a non-sensationalistic way. “In the filming we were careful to let the story unfold organically without staging or trying to force a particular direction for each story. The more I could be like a fly on the wall, the better,” says Eppo.

Originally from Edmonton, Eppo worked as a producer/director for Global Television in Calgary. Ten years ago he moved to Toronto to further his career in directing. There he produced & directed several shows and image campaigns for Canada’s leading networks including CBC, CTV, GLOBAL, LIFE, HGTV, FOOD, DISCOVERY, OLN and TSN.

As his directing evolved he also followed his passion for acting by studying at Second City, acting in film and professionally in theatre. He was able to translate his knowledge of acting into the art of directing. “As a director, I work with the subjects to make them as comfortable as possible, so that anything can happen.” His acting studies lent a wide range of depth and understanding to several television programs including *After The Attack* (documentary series) for Animal Planet USA and *At The End of My Leash* (13 episode half-hour reality series) for Slice Network. Eppo recently completed directing *Mega Disasters* (four episodes) for History Channel USA.

The Lie Detective

Biography, Ava Karvonen

Producer/Director/Writer



photo credit: Dan Power

When Ava met Ken Donaldson several years ago, she knew right away that the story of his work was worth telling. “It’s not about the polygraph so much as relationships, friendship, and soul. All these stories are about heart in the end,” she says.

Ava is a twenty-year veteran of the film and television industry and founder of Reel Girls Media Inc. of Edmonton. Not only does Ava work in the industry, but so does her family. Her father is a nature documentary filmmaker and cinematographer, her mother is a textile artist and documentary filmmaker, and her brother Downy is a sound designer. Ava has produced more than 40 hours of television programming and new media projects including websites, serious games, webisodes, vodcasts and podcasts.

Her work has been internationally recognized with more than 35 awards including eight recent awards for the interactive website, www.anashinteractive.com – the online companion to the animated series, *Anash and the Legacy of the Sun-Rock*. Ava was also recognized with four awards for *Homefront* – the story of five soldiers and their families during a deployment to Afghanistan, which she produced and directed. She

also directed *Seeds of Change*, a one-hour documentary about two scientists who help restore the Yangtze River in China to health and in so doing, significantly improve the lives of the subsistence farmers who live along its banks.

Ava’s recent producer credits include *Real Alberta* (one hour doc) for Rogers and City TV, *Capturing Cooperman: A Not So Private Investigation of Howard Engel* (one hour doc) for CTV Bravo!, and *Return of the Peregrine* (one hour doc) for CBC’s Nature of Things. For Chum TV Ava produced *Booked* (13 episode half-hour TV series and multiplatform content including www.booked.tv, an online destination that explores forensic science and features real Canadian CSIs), *Between the Stones and the Ocean* (one hour doc), *Out of the West* (one hour doc), *How the Fiddle Flows* (one hour doc), and *Wildfiles* (13 part half-hour television series and multiplatform content including www.wildfiles.tv). Ava thrives on keeping busy, so when she’s not multitasking you may find her breaking her own travel record of over 30 countries as she explores the globe.

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Corporate Profile Reel Girls Media

Reel Girls Media is a content driven company dedicated to fostering a deeper understanding of the world and the human spirit through the production of award winning factual and non-factual television and new media programs for the global market. The company engages in smart and original entertainment delivered across multiple platforms including television, web and mobile.

Our projects include animation, children's and youth, science, history, arts and culture, drama and lifestyle and have been recognized with more than 35 international awards and over 65 worldwide screenings. Reel Girls Media recently received eight awards for www.anashinteractive.com – the 2008 Japan Prize for Educational Media in Tokyo, the Entertainment Standard of Excellence at the US Web Marketing Association's Web Awards, the Bronze award in the Children's category at the 2008 Omni Intermedia Awards in Kentucky, the Gold Remi for Children's Interactive at WorldFest-Houston, the Silver award at the World Media Festival in Hamburg, Best Digital Cross-Platform Project at the Alberta Film and TV Awards, the Gold award in the Children's category and the Silver award in the Youth category at the Davey Awards in Kentucky, and a nomination from the Gemini Awards. *Anash Interactive* is the online companion to the animated series, *Anash and the Legacy of the Sun-Rock*.

They also received four awards for *Homefront* – Best Social Issues Documentary at Hamburg, Germany's World Media Festival, Best Foreign Short Film at Kentucky's Bluegrass Independent Film Festival, the Chris Award for War and Peace Documentary at the Columbus International Film and Video Festival and Best Documentary at the Alberta Film and TV Awards. *Homefront* was broadcast on Global and tells the story of five soldiers and their families during a deployment to Afghanistan.

The company is led by owner/president Ava Karvonen, a twenty year veteran in the media industry who brings a wealth of long-standing relationships to the business including those with cutting edge creative talent, broadcasters, distributors, investors and technical pioneers. Reel Girls Media's productions are innovative, evergreen and versatile – designed for flexible multi-platform delivery.

Working to harness technology and innovation, the company designs programs for multiplatform delivery including television, iPod, mp3 player, mobile phone, DVD, the internet, and portal applications. The company embraces convergence by building interactivity and technical innovation into television projects with companion and stand-alone new media components, live segments, live broadcasts, and web-casts.

Visit this unique team of television and new media professionals at: www.reelgirlsmedia.com.

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Credits

Executive Producer & Producer	Ava Karvonen
Associate Producer	Shivani Saini
Directors	Eppo Erkes Ava Karvonen Brian Murphy
Writers	Michelle Graff Ava Karvonen Nikki Stalker
Supervising Editor	Roley Wight
Picture Editors	Roley Wight Bill Uren Wes Belair
Post Production Supervisor	Shivani Saini
Cinematography	Rick Bremness Sergio Olivares Wes Doyle Shaun Henning Trevor Wilson Kelly Wolfert Mike Ouelette Doug Steele Daron Donahue Mike Carroll
Composer	Becker
Location Sound	Downy Karvonen Michael Olson Carey Opper Jamie Kidd Gerry Clarke
Show Open	Pounce.TV
Post Production Sound	Downy Karvonen Jerry Krepakevich
Assistant Picture Editors	Kathleen Anderson Andrea Webster

The Lie Detective

Website	Cindy Mitchell
Stills Photography	Dan Power
Production Assistant	Kathleen Anderson
Transcribing	Kathleen Anderson Christina Fredin Linda Z. Schultz Nikki Stalker Lauren Starko
Post Production Facilities	Reel Girls Media Studio Post Sonus Post Audio
Legal	Linda Callaghan
Insurance	Jones Brown
Business Affairs	Judy Robinson
Bookkeepers	Anita Rolston Galina Sandler
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For more information on the series visit www.theliedetective.ca

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