

**THE
WOMEN
IN THE
DIRECTOR'S
CHAIR
WORKSHOP**



WIDC 2007

10th Anniversary Edition



CREATIVE
WOMEN
WORKSHOPS
ASSOCIATION



THE BANFF CENTRE



ACTRA

A seriously road-tested professional development program WIDC takes mid-level women directors through all the components of professional dramatic media production, from script to screen with senior mentors, professional actors and crews.

**86 directors
360 projects
10 years**

At WIDC 2007

Develop your leadership and story-telling style. Take creative risks and test original material in a safe learning environment.

WHEN, WHERE, HOW

WIDC SIM December 8 to 11, 2006

WIDC PPPM January 18 to February 4, 2007

The Banff Centre, Alberta, CANADA

TELEFILM

CANADA

Canada

Providing major support since 1997

For more information or an application form:

www.creativewomenworkshops.com

www.banffcentre.ca/bnmi

www.actra.ca

APPLICATION DEADLINES:

Director Participants: September 30, 2006

Actors & Crew: October 31, 2006

THE MENTOR DIRECTOR

Providing an overview on the many aspects of being a director and feedback to the director participant.



LEA POOL, WIDC 2007 Mentor Director,
photo Thomas Kognigsthal

Léa Pool has pursued a unique cinematographic path. In 1979, she wrote, shot, produced and directed a one-hour fiction film, *STRASS CAFÉ*, which won awards in four festivals. From 1980 to 1983, she directed ten programs on cultural minorities, for Radio-Québec. She then wrote and directed her first feature film, *LA FEMME DE L'HÔTEL*, which was enthusiastically welcomed by critics and the public, winning seven awards, including the International Press Award at the Montreal World Film Festival, the Genie Award for best actress, and the Public's Award for fiction at the Women's Film Festival in Créteil, France. Her second feature film *ANNE TRISTER* was the last volume in a trilogy on the complex issue of feminine identity and *À CORPS PERDU* confirmed the importance of Léa Pool on the Canadian film scene, garnering First Prize from *Première Magazine* at the Festival of Namur and the Award of Excellence at the Atlantic Film Festival; entering official competition at the Venice Festival, the Montreal World and International Film Festivals, in 1988. Her subsequent feature films including *EMPORTE-MOI*, *LOST AND DELIRIOUS*, *THE BLUE BUTTERFLY* have received numerous awards and distinctions. In October 1994, the Blois Festival (France) presented a retrospective of the cinematographic work of Léa Pool, and the "Ordre des Arts et des Lettres de France" awarded her the title of "Chevalier". Ms. Pool's many documentaries have earned equal attention and she is presently working on the cinematographic adaptation of *PILGRIM* by Timothy Findley.

Mentor Director's Chair Sponsored by



WIDC PERSONNEL

A team of seasoned professionals offers individual and group sessions on a variety of topics tailored to each participant's individual learning plan. Full bios available on-line at creativewomenworkshops.com



Carol Whiteman (WIDC PRODUCER)
Peg Campbell (SIM INSTRUCTOR / MENTOR STORY EDITOR)
Carolyn Mamchur (SIM INSTRUCTOR)
Gabrielle Rose (MENTOR ACTOR)
Roger Vernon (MENTOR DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY)
Mary Ungerleider (MENTOR EDITOR)



Carol Whiteman winner
UBCP/ACTRA 2005 Sam Payne
Award and the WIFVV 2006
Sharon Gibbon Lifetime Member

ALUMNAE WORKSHOPS

Sandra Richmond / Diana Cafazzo, Partners, Stohn Hay Cafazzo Dembroski Richmond LLP
Janice Talbott, CHUM Television
ADDITIONAL GUEST SPEAKERS and MENTORS (TBA)

Sponsored in part by:



STOHN HAY CAFAZZO DEMBROSKI RICHMOND LLP
Entertainment and Media Lawyers



PHASE ONE – STORY INCUBATION MODULE (SIM)

Explore different approaches to character development, dialogue, story structure. Followed by 5 weeks of on-line story-editing in preparation for PHASE TWO.

PHASE TWO – PREP, PRODUCTION AND POST MODULE (PPPM)

Hands-on directing experiences with professional actors and crews.

PHASE THREE (ONGOING)

Support for short and long-term career plans. Become part of the WIDC Alumnae Network.

PRODUCTION and PARTICIPATING SPONSORS

The WIDC Workshop could not achieve such high educational and production standards without the facilities and equipment contributed in kind by:



and the IATSE members that donate the use of their own equipment.



WIDC is also produced with the participation of:



The M. Cutler Family

BCIT students conducting the CWWA Web site Upgrade Project

THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR SCHOLARSHIPS

Contact Carol Whiteman, Creative Women Workshops for more detailed scholarship information. Sponsored in part by:



Panacea Entertainment WIFT-Alberta

"WIDC offered me a gift, the opportunity to find my voice." ~ Ines Buchli

ACTOR SCHOLARSHIPS



Sponsored by:



ACTRA Montreal

ACTRA Maritimes

"...one of the richest experiences I've had in my life! Thank you!" ~ Rogue Johnston, Actor, Toronto, ON

CREW SCHOLARSHIPS



Professional Crew Sponsored in part by:



"I proved to myself that I had strengths and knowledge in areas where I had not previously worked." ~ Lori K Peterson, DGC, BC

Work-study / Volunteer Crew Sponsored in part by:



Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design, S.A.I.T., University of Calgary, The Regina Film and Video Student Society, Saskatchewan Community Network, SaskFilm, Saskatchewan Motion Picture Industry Association (SMPIA)

"A great intensive workshop...I will recommend this program to anyone interested in developing skills for a career in film production."
~ Kirsten Watt, Work Study Volunteer Crew, Whitehorse, NT

Photos by Don Lee and Tara Nicholson



CBCtelevision

We gratefully acknowledge CBC Television, major sponsor of the WIDC 2006 session of the SIM.

WIDC 2006 DIRECTORS



BACK: Kalli Paakspuu, Nadine Valcin, Anne Wheeler (Mentor), Daun Windover, Jennifer Kierans, Claudia Medina Culos - FRONT: Lesley Anne Patton, Michaelin McDermott, Rita Shelton Deverell

Photos by Tara Nicholson and Don Lee

10 WIDC Alumnae Quotes ...

"A program like this isn't just a good idea, it's essential." ~ Megan Smith Davies, 1997 Director

"Congratulations on a decade of success with WIDC!" ~ Naomi McCormack, 1998 Director

"...a real boost to my confidence." ~ Michele Boniface, 1999 Director

"Such a great venue!" ~ Betty Thomas, 2000 Director

"Thanks again for a wonderful [alumnae] workshop." ~ Marilyn Norry, 2001 Director

"Encouragement and assistance from excellent professionals ~ mentors, performers and crew ~ was invaluable." ~ Jacqueline Samuda, 2002 Director

"Opportunity to...take risks, encourage and inspire one another and come away with increased confidence." ~ Jennifer Calvert, 2003 Director

"Don't hesitate to be part of this wonderful and useful project..." ~ Anne Marie Ngo, 2004 Director

"WIDC has brought me light-years closer towards directing my sci-fi projects." ~ Sarah Michelle Brown, 2005 Director

"The right thing at the right time for me..." ~ Rita Shelton Deverell, 2006 Director

WIDC ALUMNAE AWARDS

WIDC Banff World Television Festival Fellowship

Presented in partnership with the Banff World Television Foundation this fellowship provides an annual opportunity for one WIDC Alumna to attend the Festival to promote herself and her work. This year's recipient is WIDC 2005 alumna Jinder Oujia Chalmers. Previous winners have included Carole Ducharme, Veronica Tennant and Anita Doron.



festival international de télévision de
BANFF
world television festival

@Wallace Studios WIDC Alumnae Award

Presented in partnership with @Wallace Studios this \$10,000 in kind award supports WIDC Alumnae to shoot their films in their choice of three state of the art studio facilities, subject to availability. This year's winner is Leslie Anne Coles (WIDC 2005) for her production of a teaser for her television series Variety Store. Previous winners have included Annie Bradley, Sarah Michelle Brown, Patricia Harris Seeley, Mieko Ouchi, and Veronica Tennant. The award also includes a full year subscription to mymediabiz.com an interactive web portal and promotional tool sponsored by @Wallace Studios.



NEW!!!



MPPIA

THE VOICE AND VISION OF
BC'S MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

BC MPPIA WIDC Alumnae Feature Film Award

To celebrate the 10th Anniversary and through the combined support of MPPIA BC members Creative Women Workshops will administer an annual award of in kind services including one-week studio rental towards a WIDC alumna's feature film project. More details will be available on the CWWA web site soon.



(top) Leslie Ann Coles
2005 @Wallace
Studios WIDC Alumnae
Award winner

(bottom) Jinder Oujia
Chalmers 2005 WIDC
BWTF Fellowship
recipient

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ALUMNAE UPDATES

WIDC 1997

Ines Buchli ~ attended the Canadian Film Centre in 1998 as a director. She co-wrote the short film *Keeper* (1998) that WIDC alumna, Carole O'Brien directed. The idea for this film and partnership was born at WIDC. Ines' award-winning film *Foxy Lady, Wild Cherry*, that she directed and associate produced continues to be broadcast around the world. Her first feature, *Skin to Skin*, co-written with Marlene Rodgers, is in development with BC Film and it is slated to be her feature directing debut. Ines teaches acting and directing at York University.

Annie Frazier Henry ~ received the 2006 Reel World Film Festival Trailblazer Award in recognition for Excellence in Accomplishment. Since attending WIDC Annie's works including documentaries, television series, short and feature-length films, have garnered over 16 Canadian and international awards, and in 2000 Annie was named Aboriginal producer / writer / director of the 21st Century an award sponsored by BC Film and Heritage Canada and presented by the Indigenous Arts Service Organization and the Penticton Indian Band.

Gail Kerbel ~ has been writing for the Gemini nominated animated television series *Bob and Margaret* as well as for CBC Radio's *Morning Side*.

Carole O'Brien ~ attended the Canadian Film Centre in 1997-98 where she directed the short film *Keeper* (1998). In 2003 she made another short (23 minutes) called *En trois-temps* and has been working on writing a feature film as well doing special projects for the French CBC television and radio. In 2005 she was artist-in-residence at the Winnipeg Film Group where she made a short hand processed experimental film called *Home Body*. She was also commissioned along with 4 other filmmakers to make one of 5 films to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Winnipeg Film Group with fellow filmmakers Guy Maddin, Deco Dawson, Neil McInnis and Matt Holmes. Another experimental film called *Troubadour*, financed by the Manitoba Arts Council should be completed by the end of summer 2006.

Colina Phillips ~ directed a music video project called *Crazy Legs*, featuring Order of Canada Recipient, Doug Riley, with Tyler Yarema, and John Roby which aired on Bravo during the past year. The video inter-cut shots of the musicians playing grand pianos with dramatized scenes from the play *Stride*, written by Keith Whiting.

Katie Tallo ~ having run her own production company for the past 15 years, Katie has directed over 50 films, television, animation series and videos since graduating from WIDC. Recently, she took a break from filmmaking to pursue freelance writing opportunities in the marketing world.



WIDC 1998

Christianne Hirt ~ her short film, *Craving* screened at the 2005 Calgary International Film Festival and now has a distributor.

Tina Keeper ~ was elected as a Liberal MP in her Manitoba riding.

Naomi McCormack ~ having directed 6 films in the last ten years, ranging from one-minute animations to half hour documentaries and dramas, this fall she is off to teach film at Penn State University, but plans to continue making films both in the US and in Canada.

WIDC 1999

Sheila Jordan ~ won the 2006 WIFVV Outstanding Woman In Her Field Award for her NSI Drama Prize short *Kathleen's Closet* which screened at the WIFVV WIFT-I International Women's Day Film Festival and has been selected to screen at the esteemed Moondance Festival 2006. She is a recipient of a 2006 CTV Fellowship to attend the BWTVF.

WIDC 2000

Mieko Ouchi ~ was a finalist for the Governor General's Literary Award for Drama in 2004 for her play *The Red Priest (Eight Ways To Say Goodbye)*.

WIDC 2001

Marilyn Norry ~ her *My Mothers Story* project, an anthology of 40 women's reflections on their relationships with their mothers, was featured on CBC Radio and the premiere performance took place on Mother's Day 2006.

Alison Reid ~ directed the short film *Succubus*, fall 2005, and with her Free Spirit Films writer Richard Beattie is one of five producer/writer teams to be awarded a spot in WIFT-Toronto's, 2006 NBC Universal Development Incubator.

WIDC 2002

Annie Bradley ~ her film *Tongue Bully* won 2005 Most Creative Short at the Utah Arts Festival's - Fear No Film Short Film Festival. She sold the film to ATOM FILMS as a special acquisition sponsored in part by Acura as their "PICK OF SUNDANCE" and was offered two world-wide distribution deals in earned the interest of a number of international broadcasters as well. In 2005 she also directed music videos for the legendary Andy Kim (Sugar, Sugar), 5 time CMA Winner Lisa Brokup, and most recently the album launch single "Sing This Song" for Jeen O'Brien's new album "Sixties" produced by Hawksley Workman.

Shirley Cheechoo ~ her feature film *Johnny Tootall* screened at 2006 reel world film festival.

Patti Henderson ~ directed a series of promotional films for Jacqueline Connoir Studio and will be complete her short film *Dirty Knees* summer 2006.

Shandi Mitchell ~ her short film *Tell Me*, a reflection on her relationship with her father, screened at the 2005 Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver International Film Festivals and well as the St John's Women's Film Festival.

Jacqueline Samuda ~ is currently in a second round of development with Telefilm, BC Film and Movie Central with her most recent feature screenplay, *Bread* (also slated to be her feature directing debut). A past BC Film Writer's Fellow, she had had has three scripts make the semi-finals in the Chesterfield and Austin Film Festival competitions, and in the television arena Jacqueline is co-story writer of an episode of the sci-fi television series, *Stargate SG-1* ("Metamorphosis"), produced by MGM-TV.



WIDC 2003

Mairzee Almas ~ directed an insert unit for the TV Series Smallville.

Anita Doron ~ recently finished her first feature film, *The End of Silence*, which won the best feature award at the 2006 Canadian Filmmakers Festival and has been picked up for distribution by Mongrel Media and is screening at the 2006 Female Eye Film Festival. Anita is shooting her second feature August 2006.

Patricia Harris Seeley ~ directed 5 episodes for the series, *X-Weighted* that aired April and May 2006 on Discovery Health and Life Network, produced by Edmonton-based Anaid, as well as her second BravoFACT film called *A Good Knight Story*, a medieval piece with ladies in waiting, knights in armour, and jousting! She also won the High Definition Pitch at last year's BWTVF for her feature documentary on orphaned orangutans in Borneo and the Dayak women who raise them as their surrogate mothers. Financing is almost complete and she plans to return to Borneo immediately after the BWTVF this year to start filming.

Desiree Lim ~ her first one-hour Canadian TV drama "Floored By Love" has opened at various LGBT film festivals including Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, Vancouver and Madrid and aired on CHUM's CityTV and Bravo! It was also chosen by the LA-based Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) as one of the films that provided significant LGBT representation in media in 2005-2006. The film will be distributed by Wolfe Video (USA). Desiree is currently developing several feature film screenplays with producers in Vancouver and Tokyo.

Zarqa Nawaz ~ 2 episodes of her comedy series with West Wind Productions have been ordered by CBC Television.

WIDC 2004

Carole Ducharme ~ produced a 8 x 3 min. web series for the cooking reality television series *The Next Great Chef*, broadcast on Global. She wrote, directed and co-produced a 30 sec. PSA for Covenant House, she wrote two episodes of the up-coming youth series *SOS- Ecologie*, which she will also be directing, and she is currently writing and will be directing the one-hour documentary *My Queer Family*, produced by the National Film Board of Canada. Her feature film screenplay *Les Femmes de Ma Vie / The Women of My Life* has been selected as a finalist in the screenplay competition at the Moondance International Film Festival 2006.

Teresa Hannigan ~ her short film *Snapshots for Henry* had its world premiere at WorldFest Houston in April 2006 where it won a platinum remi award. It will have its Canadian premiere in June 2006 at The Canadian Film Centre's Worldwide Short Film Festival and then screen at The Female Eye Film Festival. Teresa is currently directing an episode of *Ghostly Encounters* for W and writing a feature length screenplay.

Christine Lippa ~ directed the short film *Cinema n'est pas mort* - for the VIFF One Minute Short competition and made the top 10. She also created and directed a Theatresports comedy production of "Canadian Idle".

Binky Mendez ~ directed 8 television commercials for Channel M and various clients in India, she is currently in development with Orca Productions on a documentary, *What It Takes*, and is in her second round of development funding for her feature film *Guru Hop* with Movie Central, B.C. Film and Telefilm.

Renee Morriveau ~ raised over \$120,000 for the Vancouver Aboriginal Youth Theatre Project, a year-long training program ending March 2006 to train Youth in acting for film, development of their marketing materials of photos and resumes and more. She is recording the first CD of the a cappella group she's been singing with for 5 years - *M'Girl* to be released in June 2006. She has also directed 4 community aboriginal videos on art and music and is currently working on a video for a local aboriginal community on the retention of their language. Renee is also active in the theatre community, directing, producing and performing.

Anne-Marie Ngô ~ her directing work include a music video, a musical, and a television series *Tête Première* produced by Groupe Pram (second season, Vrak TV 2006). She has also written, produced and directed a short film *Cadavre Exquis* (2006). Under the guidance of filmmaker Léa Pool, Anne-Marie is currently screenwriting the final version of her first feature film, produced by Josée Roberge (Glacialis Productions), with the support of Sodec, Telefilm Canada and the Harold Greenberg Funds.

Alisa Palmer ~ recently directed *Belle Moral: a Natural History* at The Shaw Festival. Written by playwright and novelist Ann-Marie MacDonald, it was the first original contemporary play premiered at The Shaw Festival. The production was named in the Top 10 lists for Best Productions of 2005. She is currently Resident Director of *The Lord of the Rings*. Alisa is in development for her first feature film.



WIDC 2005

Sarah Michelle Brown ~ earned a pre-license from CBC Television for a 22 minute short *Cupid Painted Blind*, is in development for a pov doc called *Sweet Home Africa* with the NFB, won an international internship through the CFTPA to shadow Paul Haggis and Bobby Moresco.

Leslie Ann Coles ~ winner of the 2006 @Wallace Studios Alumnae Award, in addition to presenting the 5th Annual Female Eye Film Festival in Toronto, June 15 to 18, launched a Youth Mentorship Program to encourage new female directors.

Meghna Haldar ~ is completing her documentary *Dirt* with the NFB.

Arlene Hazzan Green ~ was the series director on a 13 part doc series for Global TV called *Adventures in Catering*. She is now directing the HGTV 13 part docu-soap called *The Urban Realtor*, a behind the scenes look at the life of Toronto's "Condo King" Brad Lamb.

Jinder Oujla-Chalmers ~ is currently seeking production financing for *Elvis and Mrs. Singh* her first feature and along with Omni Film and Television Productions and Invert Media she has just finished the final draft of her *MOW, Code of Silence* for APTN and Global Television, expected to go to camera in 2007. Jinder is the recipient of the 2006 WIDC BWTVF Fellowship.

Sherry White ~ her comedy series pilot *Rabbitown* aired on CBC and attracted over 250,000 viewers.

WIDC 2006

Rita Shelton Devereil ~ directed and starred her one-woman show, *McCarthy and the Old Woman* at the Winnipeg Fringe Festival, FemFest 2006 has requested to do a reading of her play *Pure Animals* about the aftermath of Katrina and she is the recipient of WIFT-T's 2006 Quebecor BANFF Mentorship Award.

Jennifer Kierans ~ is in pre-production on her feature film, *Into the Sun*.

Claudia Medina-Culos ~ recently wrapped her 35mm short film *Finding Llorona* and has begun editing. Claudia wrote and directed this film which received support from the BC Arts Council, Canada Council for the Arts, and the City TV CineCity writers development program. Claudia continues to work as a mentor for a digital filmmaking program for youth in the downtown east side of Vancouver and is also developing a feature length documentary and another short film project.

Michaelin McDermott ~ wrote, directed and produced the mini-series *Light: More than Meets the Eye* for Discovery Channel, Canada. The HD-shot documentaries received high ratings and have secured international distribution.

Nadine Valcin ~ is currently in post-production on her short drama *Fire and Fury* which she workshopped at WIDC. She is also preparing to shoot a short documentary for the National Film Board entitled *Still Waiting for Justice*.

