

# WIDC 2012

## 15th Anniversary Edition



**Shining a  
Spotlight**

15 Years  
150 Women Directors  
Limitless Talent

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



Providing major support since 1997

# WIDC PROGRAM

“ Challenging, uncompromising and caring, WIDC has forged an approach to creative training in film that is road tested and has proved consistently successful. ”

**Gaylene Preston**

ONZM, NZ Arts Foundation Laureate,  
Independent Filmmaker, WIDC 2011 Mentor Director



## MODULE 1

### STORY INCUBATION MODULE (SIM)

**November 25 to 28, 2011**

Leadership, story and character development from the director's perspective led by Jungian expert, Dr Carolyn Mamchur; followed by five weeks of story-editing with a senior story editor.



## MODULE 2

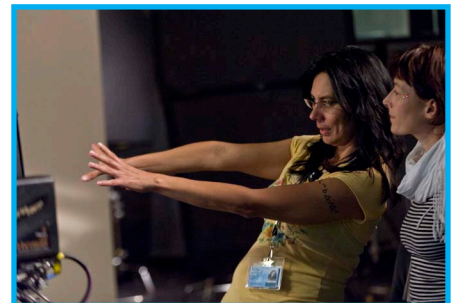


### PREP, PRODUCTION & POST PRODUCTION MODULE (PPPM)

**January 12 to 29, 2012**

Mentorship, hands-on practice in all aspects of the screen-based creative process, led by senior mentors and supported by professionals.

## MODULE 3



### ONGOING ADVANCEMENT MODULE (OAM)

Follow-up, mini-master classes, networking events, awards, fellowships.

*CWWA sponsors Female Eye Film Festival Best in the Biz Tribute to Honorary Director, a mini-master class with 2011 honoree, Mary Harron.*





# WIDC LEADERS

WIDC consistently attracts high caliber professionals who share their expertise, insights and love of creative exploration with all participants. Many thanks to the people behind 15 years of WIDC.

**WIDC Producer**, Carol Whiteman; **Mentor Directors**, Anne Wheeler, Stacey Stewart Curtis, Norma Bailey, Nancy Malone, Janet Greek, Lynn Hamrick, Nanci Rosso, Patricia Rozema, Gaylene Preston, Lea Pool, Donna Deitch, Kari Skogland; **Directors of Photography**, Roger Vernon, Peter Woeste, Tony Westman, Dean Bennett, Peter Wunstorf, Gregory Middleton, Robin Loewen, Harvey La Rocque, Andreas Poulsson, Richard Walden, Bob Aschmann, Bob Saad, and the late Richard Lieterman; **Production Designers**, John Blackie, Myron Hyrak, Louise Middleton, Cathy Cowan, Janet Lakeman, Celine Godberson, Terry Gunvordahl; **Mentor Actors**, Lori Triolo, Rosemary Dunsmore, G. Christianne Hirt Shaw, Janet Laine Green, Iris Quinn, Brenda Basinet, Veena Sood; **Story Editors**, Peg Campbell, Carolyn Mamchur, Linda Coffey; **Picture Editors**, Lisa Binkley, Susan Shipton, Mary Ungerleider, Daria Ellerman, Richard Schwadel, Roger Mattiussi, Paul Mortimer, James Ilcic, Sophie Mardirosian, Kerry Stauffer; **Audio Post Production**, Orest Sushko, Frank Laratta, Mike Shields; **Industry Executives**, Trish Williams, Rebecca Dipasquale, Robert Hardy, Virginia Rankin, Marguerite Pigott, Maureen Levitt, Janice Talbott, Caterina DeNave, John Dippong, Anne Frank, Gordon Whittaker, Jamie Gaetz, Martin Harbury, Anna Stratton, Mary Anne Waterhouse, Lael McCall, Jan Nathanson, Trish Dolman, Camelia Frieberg, Mary Quinn, Helen Asimakis, Lesley Grant, Suzanne Chapman, Brad Pelman, Lucie

Robitaille, Diana Cafazzo, Sandra Richmond, Pat Ferns, Peter Lhotka, Tom Cox, Doug McLeod, Catherine Middleton, **CWWA Board members past and present**, Carol Whiteman, Brian Gromoff, Sara Diamond, Susan Kennard, Kerry Stauffer, Tammy Bentz, Katie Tallo, Anita Doron, Mary Bissell, Rita Shelton Deverell, Carole Ducharme, Jinder Oujla-Chalmers, and too many to list, the hundreds of ACTRA actors, DGC and IATSE crew, and workstudy crew volunteers, The Banff Centre staff; and an extra special thank you for a 10th anniversary visit from former Governor General of Canada, her Excellency the Right Honorable Michaëlle Jean.

## WIDC 15-YEAR SERVICE ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**CWWA:** Carol Whiteman

**ACTRA:** Brian Gromoff

**The Banff Centre:**

Luke Van Dyk, Aubrey Fernandez



WIDC 2011 PPM

# WIDC AWARDS



Made possible through the generous support of the CTV-CHUM tangible benefits, CWWA was able to deliver two award programs and provide 34 scholarships to WIDC directors.

## CTV WIDC CAREER ADVANCEMENT MODULE (CAM)

Delivered in collaboration with three women's film festivals over three years, 36 women content creators advanced their careers and projects (see alumnae updates). Congratulations to this year's CAM participants, pictured behind the CAM mentors.

### ST JOHN'S INTERNATIONAL WOMENS FILM FESTIVAL

Ann Marie Fleming, Dana Warren, Brianne Nord-Stewart, Nelofer Pazira



### FEMALE EYE FILM FESTIVAL (TORONTO)

Katrin Bowen, Sharon Lewis, Valerie Buhagiar, Anna Sikorski (also pictured I, Leslie Ann Coles, FeFF)



### VANCOUVER WOMEN IN FILM FESTIVAL

Wendy Ord, Mauri Bernstein, Ana de Lara, France Benoit



With thanks to CAM Mentors, Telefilm Canada's Gordon Whitaker, John Dippong, Anne Frank; Independent producers Anna Stratton, Mary Anne Waterhouse; Super Channel's Marguerite Pigott; CTV representatives Trish Williams and Rebecca Dipasquale, and WIDC Producer, Carol Whiteman.

## CTV WIDC DIRECTOR DEVELOPMENT AWARD

The third and final \$10,000 prize from the CTV-CHUM benefits; awarded to Carole Ducharme who uses the award to attend BANFF and further her hilarious feature film directorial debut, *The Donor*.



“ This award gives me so much more energy to go after other financing sources and make my feature film a reality. ”

**Carole Ducharme**





# WIDC AWARDS

## WIDC FEATURE FILM AWARD

\$120,000 in kind support towards a feature film directed by a Canadian woman; awarded to 2010 CTV WIDC CAM alumna, Ana Valine.



“The WIDC Feature Film Award will help us make *Sitting on the Edge of Marlene* a reality and will certainly help build the kind of momentum every project needs.”

**Ana Valine**

“Ana will undoubtedly bring a great deal of humanity to the screen through the compelling characters of *Sitting on the Edge of Marlene*. We’re looking forward to working with the team on this deserving project.”

**Ed Brando**

Sales Manager,  
William F White International



WFW CEO, Paul Bronfman with WIDC FF winners, Katrin Bowen, Lulu Keating, and Ana Valine



With thanks to Women In Film and Television Vancouver for providing the award presentation venue and, Wendy D Photography



## WIDC BANFF FELLOWSHIP

A full festival pass and coaching from CWWA; awarded to 2011 CTV WIDC CAM alumna, Wendy Ord.

“This opportunity comes at the perfect time for me. I’ve been developing a diverse slate of projects that are now poised to move ahead.”

**Wendy Ord**



# WIDC TRIBUTES

ARLIN MCFARLANE, 2011 Director

"The opportunity to practice the art of directing, on a professional set, in a supportive environment, is a true gift."

EVA COLMERS, 2011 Director

"WIDC is by far one of the most realistic and intense yet incredibly creative and nurturing learning experiences for directors..."

SIOBHAN DEVINE, 2011 Director

"There are few ways I can think of to spend money and get so much gratitude."

JANE SOWERBY, 2011 Director

"...my determination is more fuelled than ever to bring my stories onto the big screen..."

JUANITA PETERS, 2011 Director

"...a one of a kind program from start to finish..."

VALERIE BUHAGIAR, 2011 CAM

"[I am] grateful to have met so many helpful and generous mentors..."



HEATHER ALLIN, 2011 Acting Ensemble

"...a brilliant balance of training and creative incubus...building skilled members of a mature film and television industry..."

REBECCA APPLEBAUM, 2011 Acting Ensemble

"The amount of learning that takes place is through the roof."

DARIUS MATHESON,  
2011 Professional Crew, DGC, BC

"...a valuable enrichment program..."

TONY WESTMAN  
2011 Mentor DOP, IATSE 669

"WIDC is a tectonic shift as a learning experience."

TIM DUTCHAK  
2011 Professional Crew, IATSE 212

"...a great learning experience for the instructors as well as the participants."

MICHELLE LEMIEUX  
2011 Professional Crew, IATSE 891

"Please keep this program running!"



# WIDC TRIBUTES

E. JANE THOMPSON, 2010 Director

"It's been a very busy year plus since WIDC 2010 and the workshop propelled me into a highly productive phase!"

CAROLYNE STOSSEL, 2010 CAM

"Canadian female directors are so very fortunate to have the WIDC in our corner..."

MICHELLE WONG, 2008 Director

"Without a doubt, attending WIDC has had a positive impact on my work. Not only was the experience a great opportunity for my professional development, the connections and contacts I made continue to inform my work."

TARA HUNGERFORD, 2007 Director

"...the WIDC workshop reminded me that if you stay focused and strike a healthy balance, it is possible to raise a family and work as a successful filmmaker."

MEGHNA HALDAR, 2005 Director

"The WIDC has imprinted the way I collaborate... as women, we are not alone with our celluloid dreams."

COLINA PHILLIPS, 1997 Director

"WIDC... holds my place in the film industry by consistently reminding me ...that I have roots in film. WIDC celebrates my efforts to begin again."



DUSTY KELLY, IATSE 891

"WIDC sets the bar for mentorship programs in the film and television industry."

ANDRA SHEFFER, Independent Production Fund

"Many of WIDC's graduates have gone on to make their mark on our industry, bringing new perspectives, new skills, new contacts, new insights and new energies to Canadian film and television productions. Happy Anniversary!"

BOB LOGAN, Panavision Canada

"Panavision supports education and training in our industry and the WIDC program with their continuing effort to further opportunities for Canadian women filmmakers."

JAY SMITH, ACTRA Alberta

"One way our motion pictures would prosper is with more women in the key director's jobs. Thank goodness for the successes of the fifteen years of work by the Women In the Director's Chair program!"





# WIDC ALUMNAE UPDATES

## 1997

**ANNIE FRAZIER HENRY** is in development with the documentary, *Aytsultha*, the story of a young girl's coming-of-age ceremony. Annie is co-writer and producer. Annie is also developing a dramatic series, with a '6th sense-edge', set in Victoria. Co-writing with Steve Lucas, her company, Full Regalia, is producing. She is also writing a new slacker-comedy, her first since *Don't Call Me Tonto*. The film is set in her family slacker-hood of Gibsons, BC.

**COLINA PHILLIPS'** debut film *Making Change* was chosen to screen in Witness as Desired, a celebration of African Canadian film, part of a symposium on artistic practice and African diasporic communities in Canada organized by Wedge Curatorial Projects. She is developing Leap Year Hoedown, which will tell the vintage love story of the Wares, who are significant figures in Canadian history, portrayed in a stream of dynamic choreography and historic music.

**MEGAN SMITH-HARRIS**, continues to helm Pyewackitt Productions, an independent television and film production company with a commitment to developing powerful, socially relevant stories with a unique perspective. Currently, she is wrapping up principal photography for, *Trial by Fire: Lives Re-forged*, a feature length documentary about the journeys of burn survivors as they reclaim and re-forge their lives after the devastation of fire. Her two-hour special, *Surrogate Stories*, airs on WEtv, fall 2011.



**KATIE TALLO**, after a twenty year career in film and television as a director, writer and producer, has parlayed her experience as a visual artist, writer, story editor and entrepreneur into becoming an online content creator and



blogger. Over the past year, she has created a highly successful blog with thousands of readers called Momentum Gathering. She has also caught the attention of some of the world's top bloggers, forged relationships with several and is now collaborating on a number of innovative online ventures in an effort to creatively inspire others to achieve their goals. Katie is the V-P, CWWA Board of Directors.

## 1998

**PEPITA FERRARI**, has just completed a beautiful short film, ([www.nfb.ca/film/source](http://www.nfb.ca/film/source)), on Canadian dance icon Margie Gillis, a recipient of one of the 2011 Governor General Awards for Lifetime Achievement in the Performing Arts. Over the past year Pepita was invited to give workshops and master classes on documentary at the California College for the Arts, Pennsylvania University and the Okanagan Summer School of the Arts. In addition to developing two new documentary projects of her own, she continues her work as a consultant to emerging documentary talents, most recently on Shannon Walsh's *St-Henri*, the 26th of August which premiered at Hot Docs 2011. Pepita was recently appointed to the executive of the national board of the Documentary Organization of Canada (DOC) and is a founding member of the new national grassroots campaign We Love Documentary: [www.WeLoveDocumentary.com](http://www.WeLoveDocumentary.com).

**STEPHANIE MORGENSTERN**, is co-creator, co-executive producer and co-writer on the hit Gemini Award winning series *Flashpoint*, which has been renewed for its fourth season and airs on CTV / CBS. The series has earned a syndication deal with Ion in the US and Stephanie and her partner Mark Ellis won a Writers Guild of Canada Award for one of their scripts.

## 1999

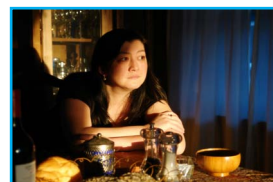
**FIF FERNANDES** is presenting laughter workshops for schools, teacher's conventions, seniors' facilities, non-profit organizations and government. Along with Carolyn Pogue, she co-founded StoryJam, a theatre company all about peace, and The Art of Peace Camp, a summer camp for kids in Calgary. Fif facilitates regular laughter sessions and loves every minute!

**GERRY ROGERS'** feature documentary, *Ferron: Girl on a Road* won the Audience Award

for Best Doc: Image+Nation, Montreal, Elle Flanders Audience Award for Best Documentary, InsideOut, Toronto, Audience Award for Best Doc, OutFilm CT, Director's Award, OutFilm CT, Best Doc, Honolulu Rainbow Film Festival, Audience Award, Best Feature, InsideOut Ottawa, Audience Award, Best Feature, ReelOut Kingston. [www.augustaproductions.com](http://www.augustaproductions.com)

## 2000

**MIEKO OUCHI** is an Edmonton-based actor, writer, and director. Her documentary, narrative and experimental films have played over 30 festivals and aired internationally. Her



plays have been produced across the country, translated into four languages and been finalists for the Governor-General's

Literary Award for Drama and the City of Edmonton Book Prize, winning the Carol Bolt Award. Recent projects include playing Nori Sato on the first two seasons of the Global TV series, *The Guard*, working as an actor with Daniel MacIvor on his new play *Arigato*, Tokyo and premiering her new play *Nisei Blue* at Alberta Theatre Project's Enbridge playRites Festival.

**BETTY THOMAS QUEE** is busy overseeing the day to day operations of the Thomas FX Group Inc.

## 2001

**DONNA BRUNSDALE** continues to teach film studies at the University of Calgary, recently including screenwriting and a course on the political economy of film festivals. She is finishing work on a short film, *Playground Dangers*, and continues to develop a feature screenplay, *Nina and Troy*, which was funded through the Canada Council. She also continues to work on all aspects of the Calgary Cinematheque, which wrapped up its fourth season, 2011.

**CAROL GEDDES'** APTN animated live action series *Anash and the Legacy of Sun Rock* was nominated for a 2011 Banff World Media Festival Rockie in the youth category and received 10 AMPIA Award nominations.



# WIDC ALUMNAE UPDATES

**MARILYN NORRY** continues work on *My Mother's Story*, telling women's history one mother at a time. There's a new Archive at our website [www.mymothersstory.org](http://www.mymothersstory.org) where people all over the world can submit the story of their mother's life. The first book of 39 stories *My Mother's Story: the originals* has just been published and is available through the website. And the community building exercise *My Mother's Story: North Vancouver* starts on Mother's Day 2011 with the gathering of mother stories from a whole community; it will culminate in a theatrical run telling nine stories in March 2012 at Presentation House Theatre.

**ALISON REID** received development funding from Telefilm Canada for her next feature film, a thriller called *Sensation* with writer Richard Beattie. Following the successful release her debut feature *The Baby Formula*, she was also among a small group of Canadian filmmakers selected to pitch at the 2011 Cannes Film Festival.

## 2002

**ANNIE BRADLEY**'s film *PUDGE* continues to play festivals and win awards, Annie also directed 13 episodes of W's new hit series *Candice Tells All*, a 1 hr episode of the docudrama *Duel Suspects*, and locked down the option on a best-selling series of novels to be developed for TV. She is writing and directing an episode of Primitive Entertainment's new series *Canadian Made* and directing a Bravo!FACT short featuring Rex Harrington and Evelyn Hart. She has also secured initial international financing for the feature *The Astronomy of Self* which is set in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and has developed a number of TV series with network interest through her company *The Heat Mansion*.



**SHIRLEY CHEECHOO** has founded the Weengushk Film Institute (WFI), a not-for-profit artist-focused, film and television training centre, dedicated to unlocking the creative potential of Aboriginal Youth and persons of diversity. ([www.weengushk.com](http://www.weengushk.com)) She is also slated to direct a feature film called *Kelly's Bar*, winter 2011.

**PATTI HENDERSON** directed five short films including, *Stella's Birthday*; *Chess*



*Mates*; *The New Beginning* (Bravo!FACT); *Happiness School*; *I'm Going Home*. All are in various stages of festival touring. She has also directed a trailer for the feature film script, *NeverLand*.

**SHANDI MITCHELL** is an award-winning filmmaker, writer and recipient of the Victor Martyn Lynch-Staunton Media Arts Award. Her debut novel, *Under This Unbroken Sky*, published in 11 countries including translations in Hebrew, Dutch, Italian and Chinese, won the Commonwealth Regional Prize, the Thomas Head Raddall Fiction Award, the Savage First Book Award, and was long-listed for the IMPAC Dublin Award. Her first feature film, *The Disappeared*, with the support of Telefilm and TMN, is slated for production summer/fall 2011.



**JACQUELINE SAMUDA** is in development with Sepia Films on her feature screenplay, *Ideal Kelly*.

**ANDREA WEISSMAN-DANIELS** has left the world of film production to marry the boy next door and then adopt a spunky 8 year old daughter. After nurturing this young woman for four years now, she has joined forces with the Children's Aid Foundation to launch a new fund to provide at-risk children with the means to participate in artistic, recreational and cultural activities. Currently, only 2% of these children have access to such programs. Andrea is using all her producing, directing, writing and performance skills in service of this worthy cause.

## 2003

**MAIRZREE ALMAS** directed two episodes of *Smallville* in their last season for a total of nine episodes with *Smallville* over the years since WDC. She also directed an episode of *Sanctuary* April 2010.

**ANITA DORON** traversed Northern India with husband and fellow TED fellow Adam Huggins developing an NFB project on the lives of soldiers who face off opposite one another

on the high altitude, disputed Indo-China border; documented a remote community operating on principles of sustainability in the Kumaun Himalay; collaborated with filmmaker Paramita Nath on her documentary about goddess worship in Kolkata. She completed an interactive music video for Sarah Harmer, produced in collaboration with the CFC. In Betlehem, she completed an animated short film on *Lust*, part of a series on the seven sins produced by Amythos Media. The film will



premiere at the World Wide Short Film Festival, Cannes and on Bravo! She received

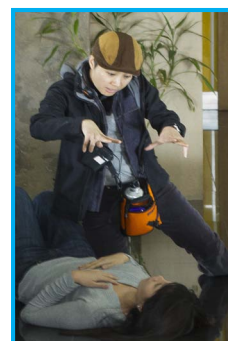
a grant from the Toronto Arts Council for the completion of her short story and graphic novella, *Lola Grimm* and the *Humanity Machine*. A TED fellow, she spoke about the future of storytelling at the FITC Conference.

## PATRICIA HARRIS SEELEY

earned a Gemini nomination for Best Direction in a Lifestyle / Practical Information Program or Series for her work on *X-Weighted: Families*. She also wrote and directed five episodes of the new series, *Puppy SOS*.

## DESIREE LIM

is currently in post production of her independent feature film *The House*, a psychological drama about a former Wall Street banker confronting her inner demons while trapped in a house of lost souls wandering between two worlds - the living and the dead.



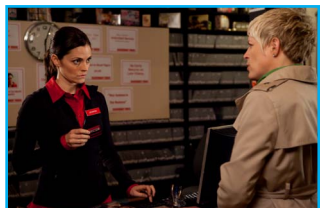
**GENEVIEVE POULETTE** is directing, for the fourth season running, episodes of the docu-drama series *Killer Next Door*, which airs on Discovery Channel (Québec) and Court TV, fall 2011. She now has a new agent, the Agence Artistique Duchesne. She's also on the board of FCTNM / WITFI Montréal.

# WIDC ALUMNAE UPDATES

**ZARQA NAWAZ**, creator of the acclaimed CBC series *Little Mosque on the Prairie* continued writing for the series.

## 2004

**TAMMY BENTZ** is on hiatus from working as Script Supervisor for the TV series *Supernatural* where she will be returning, July 2011. March 2011, Tammy completed directing her short, *Around The Bend*, at the Black Dog Video Store on Commercial Drive where she also acted as the film's protagonist everyday superhero, Clare.



Tammy's short documentary, *Passion Hunter: Saying Yes*, featuring champion mountain

biker Amber Chorney Wilson, is slated for the Hot Springs Film Festival in Arkansas, fall 2011. Previous short films have screened at the Whistler International Film Festival, the Moondance International Film Festival in Boulder Colorado, the Female Eye Film Festival in Toronto, and the Banff Centre Summer Arts Festival. Tammy continues teaching at the Vancouver Film School as well as BCIT in addition to directing one of her busiest projects yet, her soon-to-be-9-year-old son, Dane.

**CAROLE DUCHARME** is the 2011 CTV WIDC Director Development Award recipient for her feature comedy *The Donor*, developed with the support of Telefilm, BC Film and the HGF. She has also written the acclaimed feature script *The Women of My Life*, with the support of Telefilm,



BC Film, HGF, Movie Central, NSI Features First and the WIDC. Both are ready for production financing. Carole is also writing the French 6-hour television series *Pourquoi Vancouver?* for SRC in coproduction with Cirrus Communications in Montreal. Her latest short film *Autumn* won the VFS Impact Award in the Difference Maker category;

recognizing a film that will benefit society by making a difference in the community.

[www.vimeo.com/caroleducharme](http://www.vimeo.com/caroleducharme)

## ANNE MARIE NGO

wrote, produced and directed her first feature film *À Trois Marie s'en va*, slated to be in local theatres June 2011. She is currently developing and writing a thriller series for television.



## 2005

### SARAH MICHELLE BROWN

set her creative eye towards directing music videos, including the uplifting *Keep Shining* for Juno winner Shad. Coming up for 2011, she is working towards the completion of two documentaries. [www.sarahmichellebrown.com](http://www.sarahmichellebrown.com).

### LESLIE ANN COLES

received OMDC development funding for her documentary series *Melody Maker*, an intimate artist portrait featuring



Melody Maker Magazine rock'n roll photographer, Barrie Wentzell. She is in production with the first two episodes of *Make It Raw*, a raw vegan life style show. Leslie Ann is the Founder and

Executive Director of Toronto's popular Female Eye Film Festival; celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2012. [www.FemaleEyeFilmFestival.com](http://www.FemaleEyeFilmFestival.com)

### MEGHNA HALDAR

is currently finishing her short triptych drama on violence *Bol (Speak!)*. The film incorporates thousands of photographs, puppets and dance and has music by Jesse Zubot and throat singing by Tanya Tagaq. She is in development on a feature film project with support from Movie Central.

### JINDER OUJLA CHALMERS'

one-hour drama series, *Combat Hospital* is in production and will go to air June 2011 on Global and ABC Television Networks. Jinder is the co-creator, co-producer, writer, and executive story editor on this series. A brain child that took Jinder to the Afghanistan war to get it off the ground. Jinder is concurrently working on her next drama series *The Volunteer* with partners, Dennis Foon and Monica Hilborn.

## 2006

### RITA SHELTON DEVERELL

was appointed a 2011 Trudeau Foundation Mentor, and in an unusual move Mount Saint Vincent University has asked her to stay for a third year as Nancy's Chair in Women's Studies 2011-12. October 2010 saw the ground-breaking production of her full-length play *McCarthy and the Old Woman* by the School of Drama at the University of Washington in Seattle. The play is about Florence James, blacklisted Saskatchewan theatre pioneer, who was also Rita's subject in her 2006 WIDC short. Florence James' book will be published in 2011-12 by the Canadian Plains Research Centre with Rita's Epilogue. 2011 also sees the publication of *Give Voice*, 10 x 20-minute plays by the Obsidian Theatre Playwrights Unit, Playwrights Canada Press, edited by Rita, and the third volume from the Aboriginal Healing Foundation with Rita contributing a chapter. In addition she performed her one-woman show *Smoked Glass Ceiling* for the 10th anniversary of the rock.paper.sistahz Festival in Toronto at the Wychwood Theatre, May 2011.

### JENNIFER KIERANS'

feature film *The Bend* earned a theatrical release in select cities across Canada.



### KALLI PAAKSPUU

was selected as one of six high potential creators by docSHIFT Institute for a specialized four-day mentorship program, January/February 2011 to take her interactive project *Moment of Contact* to the next level. Incubator sessions were led by mentors Romeo Candido (MuchMusic Online), Anita Lee, (NFB), and Ana Serrano (CFC) and focused on idea refinement, audience clarification, and business planning.

### LESLEY ANN PATTEN

is working with Vertical Productions on a adaptation of the *The Book Of Secrets*, a New Zealand-Canadian co-pro. She is also seeking productions funds for a low budget film, *Buried In Water* on which she is the Director - Writer; the project is to be filmed in Nova Scotia, fall 2011.





# WIDC ALUMNAE UPDATES

**NADINE VALCIN**'s short film *In Between/Entre deux* (NSI Drama Prize winner 2008/09) is still making its way on the festival circuit with recent stops in Germany, Ghana and the U.S. She recently completed the first draft of her feature children's comedy *Les Malheurs de Sophie Lachance* with funding from Telefilm Canada's programme d'aide à l'écriture de scénarios and Écrire au long. She is also developing *Happily Ever After* (working title) a dramatic comedy about divorce.

## 2007

**SMITA ACHARYYA**'s short film *Sorry Girl* was selected as the Juror's Choice for Best in Show at the Female Shorts: Film and Video Showcase (Torpedo Gallery, Virginia). Smita directed four episodes of the web series *Rust*



and is scheduled to direct seven more episodes, summer 2011. Smita continues to collaborate with her twin sister and producing partner, Rita Acharyya ([www.twinsletown.ca/about](http://www.twinsletown.ca/about)), on their feature film *Shanti Claus*, a Hindu Christmas comedy as well as the half-hour comedy television series *Assisted Development*.

**KATRIN BOWEN** won the 2011 Artistic Achievement Award from WIFT Vancouver for her stunning direction in her first feature film: *Amazon Falls*. *Amazon Falls* won the best debut feature at the 2011 Female Eye Film Festival. She is self-distributing *Amazon Falls* across Canada to big houses and learning a ton about distribution on a micro budget. Katrin directed the slam poetry film *Shane with Shane Koyczan* that played at the 2011 Doha Festival. She is developing a slate of feature films.

**ALANA CYMERMAN** is collaborating with stellar visual effects production house Motor VFX on her latest short film *Julia Julep* (starring Wajdi Mouwad protégé Emmanuel Schwartz), which is the first in a fantastical triptych on



children and mythical architecture. Meanwhile she pushes forward with her other

creations, Erma Invents the Love Machine being adapted into a storybook, *The Mystique of Lost Ladies*, an interactive series, and a feature script, *A Good Enough Mother*.

**SIBEL GUVENC**, in 2010 was a director and producer at a Belgium-partnered Turkish commercial production house then signed with DKFY and Film Colony as a director. She is currently working on a local Turkish story, working title *Heroic Turkish Women*, originally an oratorio composed by Tulug Tirpan with whom she has joined forces to create a motion picture. Sibel is also partnering with an event management company to introduce 3D projection mapping into the Turkish market.

**TARA HUNGERFORD** continues to direct/write/produce on her own and with her husband and creative partner Eric Hogan under their production company Two Story Productions Inc. She is freshly wrapped off of directing a series of spots for the Vancouver MLS Whitecaps Team (Bell Canada) and a provincial political campaign with Shavick Entertainment. Her documentary *A Window Looking In* (Knowledge Network commission) won The Canadian Moving Pictures Distribution Award at the Vancouver WIF Festival 2011 and has been nominated for 7 Leo Awards. She is personally nominated for Best Director, Writer and Producer for the 2011 Leo Awards. Tara is a regular guest speaker at The Vancouver Film School and leads workshops on directing music videos. She is represented by The Characters Agency and a roster music video director for Insider Films. [www.twostoryproductions.com](http://www.twostoryproductions.com), [www.tarahungerford.com](http://www.tarahungerford.com).

**KELLY-RUTH MERCIER** has been busy in theatre, film, and at home. Piper Rose Acadia was born on February 23rd and has had an eventful life already! K-R's film *Move Out Clean*, winner of the MPPIA/Whistler Film Festival Award, premiered in Whistler, December 2010 and is making its way to festivals. Kelly-Ruth directed the successful run of *Lobby Hero*, fall 2010 and returns to 'the boards' twice more in 2011 with *Bonjour La Bonjour* and *Talk Radio*. Scripts for *How to Get a Date* are moving forward as is the early development of *Old People Cooking* – a saucy series focusing on recipes passed down through families.

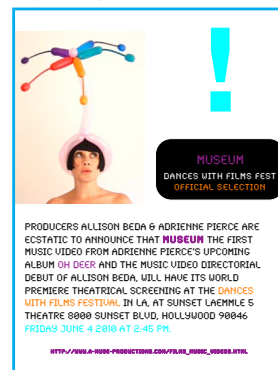


**LAURENCE VERON** has taken a position as the Francophone Program Coordinator at On Screen Manitoba.

## 2008

**ALLISON BEDA** directed the pilot for a new TV series, *Sleeping With the Dead*; a kind of "Ghostbusters" meets "The Office". Her short, *30-LOVE*, won Best Super Short Film at the Los Angeles All Sports Film Festival and her shot in Paris, France, 2nd music video for recording artist Adrienne Pierce, *Arc de Triomphe* was picked up by MTV in the USA for their online program MTV-IGGY; possible theatrical debut this summer!

Allison is writing *Unpredictable* a screenplay based on the screwball romantic comedy and has the feature *The Boys*, based on the play by Kris Elgstrand in development, slated to star Fred Ewanick, Gabrielle Rose and Brad Dryborough.U.K., was in a curated program of



shorts in Texas and can be seen on-line in Canada at the NSI on-line film festival ([nsi-canada.ca/30\\_love.aspx](http://nsi-canada.ca/30_love.aspx)) Her shorts *Fallen* and *Tea Party* are playing at the Akbar Lounge in Los Angeles, and Allison just received a Legacy

Award for "outstanding achievement in film" at the Women in Film Festival for her short film *9-1-Mum* starring Marya Delver. Ms. Beda made her first music video *Museum* (for recording artist Adrienne Pierce) this year, which was immediately picked up by MTV (it can be seen online on MTV-IGGY ([mtviggy.com/content/25367](http://mtviggy.com/content/25367)) and which will have a theatrical world premiere in June at the Dances With Films International Film Festival in L.A.

Allison is presently focusing on her narrative feature directorial debut and is on the look-out for interested and fabulous Producers! She is working with writer Kris Elgstrand to bring his darkly comic play *The Boys* to the screen and has acquired the rights to adapt the screwball romantic comedy novel, *Unpredictable* (by Eileen Cook).

# WIDC ALUMNAE UPDATES

**MARIE CLEMENTS'** musical short *The Road Forward* premiered to over sixteen festivals across the America's and Europe, and was awarded Best Musical Video at the American Indian Film Festival and the Best Music Video at the Southeastern Native Indian Film Festival. As writer/director she is currently in development with her feature films *Tombs* and *Now Look What You Made Me Do*, a new media documentary *Number 14*, a full length musical of *The Road Forward* and her short experimental film *Jesus Indian* premiered, spring 2011.

## KATHERINE FITZGERALD

attended the 2010 Independent Television Producers program in Toronto. Her short film *Bread & Kisses* is touring international film festivals including the Hamptons, and WorldFest Houston where it was awarded a Grand Remi for Best Student Film. *Bread & Kisses* was also selected for the Cannes Short Film Corner where it was screened as part of *Coup de Coeur - Crazy Canucks*, programmed by Danny Lennon of the NFB. Her other short films *Outward Gate*, *Murdoch's Other Eye*, and *The New Voice of Vermouth* are at festivals and being broadcast domestically. In June, Katherine will be in Edinburgh for the Engage conference, developing her feature film script *Scalpel*. She will complete her animated film *St. Patrick & the Snakes*, 2012.



**KAREN HINES** has been directing horror clown duo Mump & Smoot in *Cracked* at theatres across Canada for the past year, and is currently Playwright in Residence at Alberta Theatre Projects, where her new black comedy Drama will premiere next season. Karen also continues to story-edit projects through Telefilm, and is writing her own feature film based on her mini-memoir, *My Little House of Horrors*, a finalist in the 2010 National Magazine Awards. She will direct the third in her award-winning series of *Pochsy* shorts, summer 2011.

**LULU KEATING** received development financing from Telefilm, Yukon Film and Sound Commission, and CBC North for her WIDC Feature Film Award-winning film, *Based on a True Fantasy*.

Oliver Linsley will co-produce. She shot two episodes of a webisode series, *Yukonic: Episode*



6: [www.yukonic.com/siren-song.html](http://www.yukonic.com/siren-song.html); Episode 7: <http://www.yukonic.com/dawson-or-bust.html>. Her short film, *Her Man Plan* played at the 2011 Vancouver

Women In Film Festival in March and is now making the circuit.

## PEGGY THOMPSON

is working with Producer Andrew Koster on the feature film screenplay *Solly and Ray and Wendell and Nate*, supported by Corus Made With Pay and BC Film. She is also working with producer Sharon McGowan on several feature projects.

## MICHELLE WONG

continues to work as the Business Affairs Manager at Corkscrew Media in Calgary. Her WIDC experience continues to inform her choices as she works as a consultant to former participants who want to access her business admin background. This year Michelle produced a two-episode series, *The Alberta Comedy Spectacular: Best of the West* featuring western-based comics and *The Alberta Comedy Spectacular: Turtle Island Too* featuring Aboriginal comics for the CBC. Both nominated for 2 AMPA awards including Best Variety Special with *Turtle Island Too* also garnering a nomination for Best Production Reflecting Cultural Diversity.

## 2009

### MARY BISSELL

is the series director for the true crime series *The Devil You Know* which airs on the Oprah Winfrey Network in Canada and Investigation Discovery in the US. She is also developing the feature screenplay *Black Stockings*, based on Neal Hall's book "The Life and Deaths of Cindy James" for her dramatic debut; and have developed the doc series concept *To Hell and Back*, which is in development with Make Believe Media. She is co-writer on the Telefilm-funded script, *Really Into Her*.

### NAOMI JAYE

shot a Bravo!FACT for Amanda Martinez called *Gitana*, May 2010. She has optioned a book longlisted for the *Giller*, *The Incident Report* by Toronto author Martha Baillie, and is developing a musical, *Waxing Poetic* with co-writer Pete Smith.

## DOMINIQUE KELLER

continues to work on the *Baby Cliff* series. *The Interrogation* (one episode of the series) was selected by CBC to compete on the national program Short Film Face Off, June 2011. Be sure to watch the show and to cheer her on! Dominique is also pleased to have received funding to continue the next few episodes in the *Baby Cliff* series.

## PAULA KELLY

is an award-winning Canadian filmmaker, based in Winnipeg. In 2010, she was awarded the first ever Manitoba Film Hothouse Award from the Winnipeg Film Group, to support creative development on several dramatic projects. She's now in post-production on a dramatic short, *The Crest*, about the last farm family in Manitoba facing the great flood of 2040, and planning for production on the road movie feature, *Euphoria*. She is also set to premiere *Art and Stone*, a documentary about the Winnipeg Art Gallery, one of Canada's most iconic works of modernist architecture. Other recent projects include a trio of short films called *Souvenirs*, commissioned as a public art project for the City of Winnipeg and nominated for Best Documentary Short at the Yorkton Short Film Festival. Paula is a recipient of both the WIDC BANFF and the CTV BANFF Fellowships and is also an alumna of the CFC.

## KAREN LAM

wrote and directed her second short horror film, *Doll Parts* which premieres at the Viscera Film Festival in Los Angeles, summer 2011. The short film was one of ten chosen to showcase at an event screening, and will tour genre festivals and universities across the United States. Her feature film *Stained* has its official US and Canadian release, fall 2011 (October/November), following sales to the Middle East. She is currently working on financing two horror feature films, and a transmedia action/horror project.

## SHARON LEWIS

is series director for a primetime lifestyle series about overprotective Moms...and loving it. She is in post production with her short film *Masks*, a thoughtful moment about suicide. She continues to develop her transmedia sci-fi project, *The Burn*.

## 2009 CAM

### PAULINA ABARCA-CANTIN

is serving her final term as President of FCTNM/ WIFT-Montreal and has just completed three years as Director General of Montreal-based Studio XX, a women's media art centre for technological exploration, creation and critique. Over 2009-



# WIDC ALUMNAE UPDATES

2011, Paulina co-produced *First Person Digital* with the National Film Board of Canada which premiered at HTMiles 2010: Festival of Media Art + Digital Culture.

**LOIS BROWN** will be Artist in Residence and Associate to Emma Tibaldo (Artistic Director) at the Playwright's Workshop Montreal, September 2011.

**CAROLYN COMBS** received Canada Council funding to develop her latest feature film, and her short film *Small Currents* supported by the CTV WIDC DD Award, won a Legacy Award at the 2011 Vancouver WIF Festival and is touring festivals.

**DANISHKA ESTERHAZY**'s debut feature film *Black Field* recently won the Best Feature Drama award and Best Performance award at the Vancouver Women In Film Festival. *Black Field* was also broadcast nationally on Super Channel and will be released on DVD, June 2011. Most recently, Danishka directed a sitcom television pilot, *Where the Funny Comes From*, and a student feature film, *The Trials of Rasputin*. Summer 2011, Danishka will direct a new short film entitled *Fortunes*.

**DEANNE FOLEY**'s feature film directorial debut, *Beat Down* goes into production, June 2011 in St. John's, NL. *Beat Down* is an irreverent comedy about wrestling, family, and following your dreams no matter how painful that can sometimes be. Cast includes Rob Wells (*Trailer Park Boys*), Marthe Bernard (*Republic of Doyle*), Tony Nappo (*SAW II*), Janet Kidder (*Ginger Snaps: Unleashed*), Dan Beirne (*The Trotsky*), Andy Jones (*Rare Birds*) and Mark O'Brien (*Grown Up Movie Star*). Produced by Pope Productions, funded by Telefilm Canada, NLFDC, Harold Greenburg Fund and TMN.



**TRACY D SMITH**'s short film *Homestead* screened at the 2011 Vancouver Women In Film Festival. She is in development on her next feature film. [www.tracydsmith.com](http://www.tracydsmith.com)

**CAROLYNE STOSSEL** sold the world distribution rights to her first feature film *Underdogs: Born to Lose* to LA-based distributors World Film Magic. October 2010, she produced

and directed the music video *Light It Up!* for Canadian country music recording artist Aaron Pritchett; which reached the Nashville Top 5 music video chart.

## 2010

**ASNA ADHAMI** is now producing the South Asian News for OMNI Alberta. March 2011, she stage-managed WIDC 2006 alumna Rita Shelton Deverell's play *Smoked Glass Ceiling* and performed her poetry for International Women's Day at the same show. She also exhibited photos at the Mount Saint Vincent Community Show and the Saint Mary's University FASS show. Her work-in-progress short poetry film *Excuse me, may I touch your skin? I've never been this close to a coloured person before!* screened at AFCOOP's Bring Your Own Film event. She presented body image research and hosted a session on poetry at Mount Saint Vincent University's Body Image Conference. She was a mentor in POETS 4 CHANGE a youth ARTS/Poetry project that also raised money for Pakistan flood relief, ([www.poetrymap.ca/news\\_item.php?NewsID=61](http://www.poetrymap.ca/news_item.php?NewsID=61)) and showed her first ever solo show of photographs in "Reflections on Love" a show of photography and poetry exhibited at the Seaforth Community Hall in Nova Scotia. The show was featured on the CBC Radio/RCI's Masala Canada ([www.rcinet.ca/english/program/masala-canada/home/date/21-08-2010/](http://www.rcinet.ca/english/program/masala-canada/home/date/21-08-2010/)), and ([www.rcinet.ca/masala](http://www.rcinet.ca/masala)). She worked on the Spirit of South Asia for Vision TV and attended the PEI Screenwriter Bootcamp.

**ELIZABETH BECKER** is in development with her feature film, *Simple*. She attended the 2011 Merging Media Lab, focusing on transmedia storytelling.

**CATHERINE BRUHIER** received an OAC grant to direct her next short film *Clean Teeth Wednesdays* (a group of 1st grade students stage a secret revolt against the monthly hated fluoride treatments from the 1980's) based on a



favourite short story her sister Emily wrote at age 16. She starred as Cat Woman (pictured at Mann's Chinese red carpet Premiere) in *Footprints*; opened at the Sunset 5 LA & the Quad in NY in April 2011.

January 2011 she worked on two short films; *Masks* directed by WIDC 2009 alumna Sharon Lewis, and *Bunny* co-starring with David Fox and Hardee T. Lineham. In March she taped a pilot for CBC Radio, *Diplomats Wife*, followed by a turn on *Flashpoint* that airs, fall 2011. She is in development with an animation feature/TV series and comedy/drama feature *One Less Cow to Milk* and most notably along with husband actor Steven Pacini she is in development on a *BABY* on the way!

**GERALDINE CARR** is currently developing *Maud Mary* – a short film about her great-grandmother who missed the boat. The boat she missed was the Titanic. Due to go to camera, summer 2011, Geraldine aims to have the film completed in time to screen during the Titanic's centennial in 2012.



**MICHELLE LATIMER**'s animated short film *Choke* premiered at the 2011 Sundance Festival and received a Special Jury Honourable Mention for Best International Short Film before going on to have a European premiere in Rotterdam. Michelle is currently co-producing and directing a documentary mini-series with White Pine Pictures based upon John Ralston Saul's book *A Fair Country*. She is also in pre-production on the feature documentary *Alias* (The Independent Film Channel) and is developing her dramatic feature in collaboration with acclaimed filmmaker, Peter Mettler.

**ANNETTE MANGAARD** travelled to Australia, April/May 2011, to screen her new film *Kinngait: Riding Light into the World*. She also did some filming and participated in an artists'



exhibition at Sydney's Olympic Park Armory Gallery. She is continuing to develop her theatrical feature screenplay *Alberta Beauty* which is slated for completion in 2012.

# WIDC ALUMNAE UPDATES

**E. JANE THOMPSON** completed a draft of *Everything I Know About You* (developed during WIDC 2010 as *Mathilde*) and the project is now poised for packaging. Jane received funding from Telefilm in late 2010 for the final draft of *The Berliner Complex*, a psychological thriller written by Katherine Collins. Katherine has delivered a fabulous draft and that project, too, now moves into the packaging phase. Meanwhile, Jane's recent BravoFACT short, *The Exit*, is touring the festival circuit. It premiered at the Halifax Film Festival in 2010, screened at the 2011 Victoria Film Festival, and continues its run at WSFF 2011. It has won a Gold Remi for Short Subject – Romantic Comedy at WorldFest Houston. Jane continues to deliver director training and to mentor filmmakers in her role as creative advisor to NSI's Drama Prize program.

**ADA VAUGHAN** travelled to Berlin, Beijing, India, Hong Kong and Cannes to meet directly with investors and producers to finance for her first feature films *Suki* (developed at WIDC) and *Crystals*, outside of Canada. She is totally in awe of the vibe exuded from those cities, their local people, participants and staff in these well established festivals and continues to build bridges towards her goals.

## 2010 CAM

**MARTINE BLUE** is happy to be enjoying a very productive period. Her multi-award-winning film, *Urban Twirl*, is in the midst of its festival run, as is her short ghost film, *The Last Cottage Hospital*. She is prepping to shoot a short psychological thriller titled *Desperate*



*Scribbles* in May 2011 and is co-producing her last short, *Fisherman's Paint*, to shoot, fall 2011. Martine is a participant in the Atlantic Film Festival's Inspired Scripts program, with her feature script *Hunting Pignut*. She continues as a video journalist at CBC News, St John's.

**PENELOPE BUITENHUIS'** feature *A Wake* was released theatrically at AMC in Ottawa, Montreal and Toronto in February 2011 and at the Fifth Ave Cinemas in Vancouver, April 2011. *A Wake* garnered great press and an

enthusiastic response from audiences and looked gorgeous on the big screen. The film sold to Air Canada (showing now) and will soon be seen



on TMN/Movie Central. In October 2010, the film won best feature at the Carmel Arts and Film festival (where Clint Eastwood presented Penelope with the award), and the Golden Palm from the Mexico International Film Festival, May 2011.

Foreign sales still available. Her new project, *Pride No More*, written and produced by Lisa Purves, is aiming for production, January 2012.

**SHELAGH CARTER** completed her debut feature film, *Passionflower* with producer Polly Washburn, associate producer Joy Loewen, and is submitting to festivals. Her experimental short film, *Canoe* won a Grand Remi at WorldFest Houston for Best Experimental Film 2011.

**CANDICE DAY** is currently working as the Director of Business Development at March Entertainment in Toronto.

**AMANDA FAHEY** is the script coordinator for season three of CBC's hit series, *Being Erica*.

**MARY M. FRYMIRE** received a Leo Best Director nomination for *Family Matters*; *Surviving The Bipolar Journey*. The documentary has also been awarded best documentary, Best Editing, Best Music and Best Sound Editing. Mary is now touring festivals with the film. She is slated to direct *In The Weeds*, a romantic comedy with Opine Entertainment in Los Angeles, summer 2011. She is in development for her original screenplay *Epiphany*, which she will direct, spring 2012. Mary has just completed directing and writing 2 episodes for *Trashopolis* for History Channel in Mexico City, Berlin, and Germany. She has been awarded an Artist's Work Visa for 3 years in the US and will be directing projects between Vancouver, New York City and Los Angeles.

**ANITA REILLY MCGEE** is the new Executive Director for the St. John's International Women's Film Festival while Kelly Davis is on maternity leave.

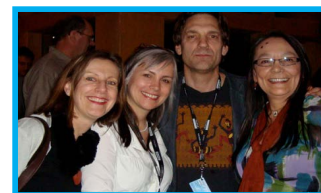
**ANA VALINE** of Rodeo Queen Pictures Inc., won 1st Place Legacy Award at the Vancouver Women In Film Festival with her short

film *How Eunice Got Her Baby*. She is the recipient of the WIDC Feature Film Award for her feature film directorial debut *Sitting on the Edge of Marlene*, produced with Amber Ripley and Rob Merilees of Foundation Features. The project was also accepted into the WIFT- Toronto Development Incubator.



## 2011 WIDC

**EVA COLMERS'** latest short film *The Weightless Traveller* is nominated for a Golden Sheaf Award at the Yorkton Short Film Festival and continues to travel the festival circuit around the globe: Int. Buddhist Film Festival in Colombo Sri Lanka in May, the Shanghai Film Festival and the Park City Film Festival in June. Eva is now in development for her new shortfilm *Granny Baby* which is a bitter-sweet story presented in an animated live-action style reminiscent of the early Expressionist cinema. Eva is also thrilled that Calgary's CSIF film coop has commissioned her to create a 16mm short film for the 20th anniversary of their annual film festival which will happen,



spring 2012. Still fueled by her recent WIDC experience, Eva is reserving some time,

this fall to continue working on her first feature-length script.

**SIOBHAN DEVINES'** most recent short film, *Immature*, has been programmed at festivals in Vancouver, Montreal and Milan. She is currently prepping two new shorts: *OMG* by Roslyn Muir will be in production, July 2011; and, *Good Dog* by Geoff Inverarity is planned for October 2011.

**JULES KOOSTACHIN**, through her company, VisJuelles Productions, shot the five-minute pilot for her APTN /CMF funded series, *Askiboyz*, about two urban Cree teenagers setting out into rural communities seeking traditional knowledge. Her Ontario Arts Council-funded multi-media installation piece, *Alive with Breath* uses video, audio and photography to tell the story of five survivors speaking to their life before their Canadian Residential School experience and opens to the public, June 2011, at Beit Zatoun in

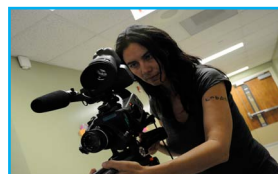


# WIDC ALUMNAE UPDATES

Toronto. The first draft of her OAC-funded novel "Soul Kept", mentored by Lee Maracle is slated for completion, June 2011. She is also developing her feature film screenplay *Broken Angel* with Mo-D Productions.

**EVA MADDEN HAGEN**'s short film, *What Remains*, produced through the CBC Film Nova Scotia Bridge Award, has had multiple screenings including an American premiere at the Los Angeles Women's International Film Festival, the Island Media Arts Festival, PEI and the Nickel Independent Film Festival, St. John's, Newfoundland. Her short film, *Fast Forward in Reverse* was selected to screen at the *Animation with Love*, *Home Sweet Home* screening, put on by the Centre for Arts Tapes in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

**GAIL MAURICE** is completing the edit on her short drama, *Kiitwam misawac na-wapamitin*, shot entirely in Cree/Michif in Northern Saskatchewan. A story about a granddaughter who goes to say her final farewell to her dying grandmother, the title means "Until I see you again" because there is no word for "goodbye" in Cree/Michif.



**ARLIN MCFARLANE** received a Filmmakers Grant from the Yukon Film and Sound Commission to direct a short based on the story *Walks Like* by well known Whitehorse/Vancouver writer and storyteller Ivan E. Coyote. Shooting is scheduled for November 2011.

**JANE SOWERBY** completed her fifth feature screenplay—a female driven paranormal thriller written for television and is now shopping it. She is completing production on a third 'teaser' webisode of her half-hour comedy series, *The World According to Eugenea Yart*. *Webisode 1: Splatt!*; in the midst of a mid-life crisis Eugenea is convinced she's found the 'secret to eternal youth'. *Webisode 2: Eugenea* recounts 'the ups and downs' of being in showbiz. *Eugenea Yart* can be viewed at [www.janesowerby.com](http://www.janesowerby.com). Jane's drama/comedy feature script *Myrtle* was optioned and is seeking financing.



## 2011 CAM

**FRANCE BENOIT**'s latest short *Hand to Toe*, an exploration in the art of giving, which premiered at the 2011 Vancouver Women In Film Festival, also screened at Hot Docs. France is the first filmmaker from the Northwest Territories to have this honour. Following this intimate portrait of volunteers who wash the feet of homeless people living on the streets of Yellowknife, France is now in development with the NFB for a second short to continue this exploration in the art of giving. That short film, *The Last to Touch* will follow Yellowknife's first funeral director as she lovingly washes the body of a deceased person.

**MAURI BERNSTEIN**, with her partners at BYOA Entertainment, is in the funding stage with her webseries and interactive multi-media extravaganza, *Beverage Barn*. She has just completed the online book trailer for Brigitta of the White Forest, and is in development with two short films and a multi-convergent television comedy. Mauri is also now promoting her skill as "Web Whisperer" to television comedy producers seeking compelling and entertaining digital content for television convergence.

**VALERIE BUHAGIAR** won the Best Experimental Drama award for her film *Small, Stupid and Insignificant* at the 2011 Female Eye Film Festival. She is developing two feature films and has been invited to direct a Canadian Film Centre feature. She has



launched a website <http://valeriebuhagiar.com>. She is directing *Don't Look Dow*, her upcoming debut as a theatre director (Berkeley St. Theatre, May 26 - June 4).

**ANN MARIE FLEMING**'s short film, *Gluttony*, starring her long-time animated avatar "stickgirl", screened at Cannes with Telefilm's Short Film Initiative. She just received Harold Greenburg Fund scriptwriting assistance for *Shanghai Follies*, a fictional riff inspired by her research on her award-winning documentary *The Magical Life of Long Tack Sam*. Ann Marie is in development with Telefilm on her feature-length animation, *Ming Rose: Slammer*, a film about family and poetry, where stickgirl goes to

Iran, and with the NFB on an animated musical about real estate in Vancouver, called *Big Trees*. She presents at a conference on the animated documentary in Edinburgh, June 2011.

**ANA DE LARA**'s film, *Near Silence* won the Best Short Film Award at the 2011 Vancouver Women In Film Festival. She is currently writing her feature script, *Kulam*, with story editor Michael Giampa and developing her short film, *Good Girls Don't*.



**BRIANNE NORD-STEWART** attended the 2011 Cannes Film Festival Short Film Corner representing her film, *The Provider* which was also shot by WIDC alumna Amy Belling. January 2011, Brianne finished editing her first feature film, *Complexity*, by Adam Bogoch. Currently seeking funding for her adapted short film, *Uranium*, based on the short story *The Uranium Leaking from Port Radium and Rayrock Mines is Killing Us*, Brianne will direct a segment of a Vancouver-based omnibus feature film, fall 2011.

**WENDY ORD** is the recipient of the 2011 WIDC BANFF Fellowship. Her short drama, *TORA!* won a Distribution Award at the 2011 Vancouver Women In Film Festival and continues to garner recognition at festivals around the world. She has several projects that she will pitch at BANFF.

**NELOFER PAZIRA** is touring with her acclaimed dramatic feature film, *Act of Dishonor*, and is writing and developing her next film project.

**ANNA SIKORSKI** is developing a new short film, *Walking Eddie* for production, summer 2011. She has completed the treatment for her first feature film, *Vandeuse Niaisue*. She is also launching a music video produced for Calgary's Anne Loree and is in the pre-production stages of a new video inspired by art house horror movies, for the rising Montreal talent *The Damn Truth*.

**DANA WARREN** graduated the life coaching program, March 2011 and is advancing her practice bringing 23 years of experience in the film industry and more specifically the freelance world, to her clients and peers in the industry. She continues to develop her feature film projects.

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