WIDC 1999 INTERVIEWS Women In the Director's Chair 1999, A Creative Women Workshop presented by The Banff Centre for the Arts, ACTRA Performers Guild, WIC

POSITION	NAME	QUOTE
Mentor Director	Noma Bailey	Of course everyone knows how to make films here because that's what they've been doing in one form or another, or if it's not film it's some other discipline that is somehow related. But it is very different when you get out on the floor and you have to organize a whole bunch of people down to getting something on a little frame. It's just, it's a skill, it's a craft that you have to learn and so, you know, you start at the beginning, and you go forward and here we are today and they're all doing their shoots and it's great!
Director	Gerry Rogers	I've been a documentary filmmaker for about 17 years and wanting to switch over to drama because I have a few stories that I'm just dying to tell, I'm burning to tell them. If I were to sit down and plot a workshop to cover what we have covered and to make the environment tat's truly a challenging environment, truly a learning environment, but also a safe one, a safe one in terms of there's safety nets there although you know you can go right to the edge but you don't have to fall off, in terms of you can make mistakes but still something positive can come from it; if I were to sit down and plot it out and plan it myself, I wouldn't have come anywhere near to what this has been. It's truly been one of the most challenging workshops I've ever taken and one of the best workshops I've ever taken.
Director	Veronica Tennant	It's been an unforgettable experience working with people of this, of this calibre. And then the group [of women directors] that have come together are also all from worlds of expertise that have all merged and meshed in a very special way. I was used to working with lyricism, and I was used to working with a certain form that had more fluidity and dramatic intention but nothing like what I've been doing here which is hard-edged drama which I felt that would be very challenging to me. All of those lessons you can take away with you now and really feel that you can genuinely apply them. Now that's what's great about it.
Director	Sheila Jordan	There were many reasons why I wanted to come to the Women In the Director's Chair workshop. The main reason was to gain confidence and I think towards the end of this workshop, I'm feeling confident so that you know one of my, my main goal is, I'm there! Here in this place, in this safe environment we can make mistakes. And we go back out there [into the Industry] we can give so much more to the actors, to the crew.

Director	Fif Fernades	I think one of the most important things is that there aren't
		enough roles for people of colour. We are a multi-racial
		country as well, and I think Women In the Director's Chair
		brings that together, not only with the directors but also
		with the actors and with the facilitators and the crew. And
		I think it's really a coming together to build women up, to
		build their confidence up o go out and say you know, hey
		I've earned this respect.
Director	Rosemary Dunsmore	I seized this opportunity actually. I tried to come last year
חוופטוטו	1000mary Danomers	and I couldn't because it conflicted with a play that I was
		directing but I'm doing a cross over into directing after
		many years of working as a professional actress.
		Because of all my years in front of the camera, I do, I did
		indeed know more about it than I thought I did. But I
		certainly needed to be in the position where only my own
		pride was at stake; to learn what i do know and what I
		don't know. So this has been just an extraordinary
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		opportunity with all these facilitates and all these people
		marshalled together to assist the eight of us in developing our kills so that we can director for camera.
Director	Michele Boniface	Maybe the most valuable lesson I've learned so far and
Director	Michele Dominace	1
		it's one from Norma, is sometimes it's not what you see
		but what you don't see that makes a shot interesting. I've
		learned a lot about blocking and about direction, direction
		of actors but I think the greatest thing is that it's given me
2 - 0	L-D-anna	confidence to know that I can do it.
Camera Operator	Harvey LaRocque	You know this is quite a unique workshop. I've attended a
		good number over the years and acted in an instructor or
		even a mentor capacity as well. And what I find in this
		workshop is that the participants are so supportive of
		each other as well, and it is, it truly reflects the spirit of
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	collaborative filmmaking.
Actor	Freda Perry	It's interesting because when you're doing a project for
		me its always your issues. You know, the issues you're
		having in your life somehow magically show up in the
		projects you're doing. And another thing is that you get to
		work with some amazing, inspiring and upcoming
		directors.
Actor	Nicole Parker Smith	We are finding that common ground and learning how to
		understand each other and I know for myself that can
		only help my career and me as a person but I think for
		them as up and coming directors its going to help them
		immensely because when they get out there they're going
		to know how to communicate with the actors and pull that
		gold out of them that is gonna make there film as brilliant
	· ·	and as creative as what they'd envisioned.

Actor	Kate Hennig	I can only think that this will create magnificent directors, more opportunities for actors I this country, more opportunities for filmmakers, you know, better scripts, you know it goes o an on doesn't it. You just think that it's the catalyst that sparks the revolution right. You just, you know by making a small step at the beginning you have a process that will just continue to unfold and grow.
Acting Coach	Veena Sood	As far as the Women In the Director's Chair program goes, well it just has to keep happening. It's so important. It's encouraging more women directors. It's giving them the training and the confidence they need, and the whole bottom line here is funding, funding, funding, funding!