



2024- 2025 Summary Report

As at March 31, 2025



**Advancing the careers and original stories told by
mid-career women and non-binary screen directors
across Canada since 1996/97**

Check out these links to learn more about WIDC 2024/25

- [A few words from Prem Gill, CEO, Creative BC](#)
- [50+ Stories of WIDC Alumni in the News, 2024/25](#)
- [WIDC Safer Creative Spaces: Mental Health Starter Toolkit](#)
- [WIDC Blog](#)

WIDC 2024/25
Sponsors and Cohorts

Program Sponsors 2024/25

Major Sponsor since 1997



Leading Program Sponsor



Participating Program Sponsors



Independent
Production
Fund | Fonds
indépendant
de production

Promotional Considerations (pari passu):

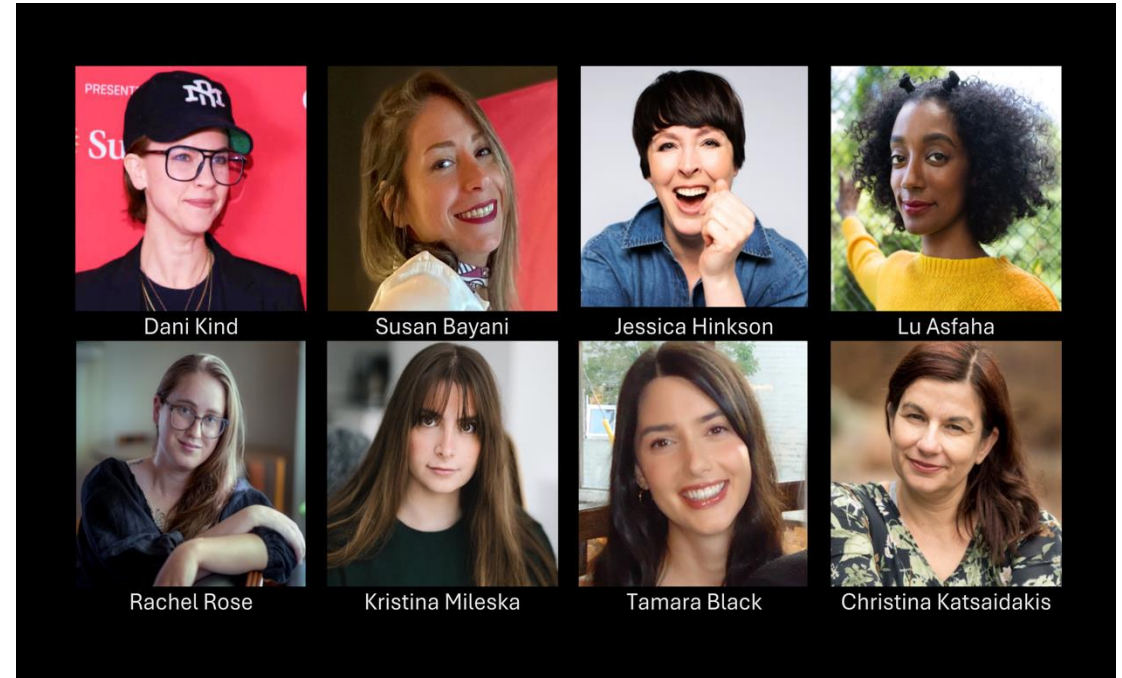
- Logo placement on back cover of all participants' e-workbooks and WIDC.ca web site
- Name recognition in all WIDC media releases
- Tags on WIDC social media

WIDC

Women In the Director's Chair
Story & Leadership
2024/25



Collaborating Film Festival
Whistler Film Festival
Industry Immersion powered by
Warner Bros. Discovery Access Canada



[<<Read More>>](#)

WIDC 2024/25

Story & Leadership Mentors, Industry Guests



Row 1 (l-r): Dr. Carol Whiteman (Lead Mentor/ WIDC Producer), Dr. Dorothy Cucw-la7 Christian, Dr. Rita Shelton Deverell (EDI Instructors/ Elders) , Dr. Carolyn Mamchur (Psychological Type & Leadership), Lori Triolo, Veena Sood, (Leadership Presence)

Row 2 (l-r): Dr. Jules Koostachin (Mentor Director), Sherry White (Mentor Story Editor), Kim Derko , csc, Sylvaine Dufaux, csc (Mentor DP's), Annelise Larson (Digital Marketing Mentor, Veria.ca)

Row 3 (l-r): Meghna Haldar (Telefilm Canada), Mark Shapland (IPF), Gosia Kamala (CBC Films), Natalie Igelfeld (Bell Media).

PARTS 1, 3 & 4 presented online and PART 2, in person Industry Immersion, presented in collaboration with Whistler Film Festival, powered by Warner Bros. Discovery Access Canada

WIDC 2024/25

Story & Leadership Acting Ensemble



Gordon Micheal Woolvett, Darlene Cooke, Qado, Roxanne Fernandes, Krista Bridges, Angela Besharah, Ali Tarhouni, Linda Ko, Elise Bauman, Valentina Battrick, Niqa Bailey, Amira Anderson, and Alison Araya (not pictured).

Building Bridges to the Industry

WIDC collaborates with organizations and film festivals across Canada

Community Collaborators



BENEFITS TO WIDC, Participants & Alumni

- Submission discounts , waivers, comps to WFF, Reelworld FF, SJIWFF, GEMFest, FeFF, VIFF, TIFF
- Invitations for alumni to attend DGC Online Master classes
- In kind PR support from GAT PR
- Access to industry

WIDC Career Advancement Modules are presented online and include 1+1 career coaching, masterclasses, and roundtables with Industry Guests (Telefilm Canada, Bells Media, CBC Films, GAT PR), plus festival passes to collaborating film festivals.



Career Advancement Module
Spring / Summer 2024

Collaborating Film Festivals
GEMFest, Vancouver
Female Eye Film Festival, Toronto



Elizabeth Hicks



Emily Coutts



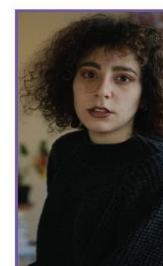
Hannah Cheesman



Jinjara Mitchell



Jordana Allen-Shim



Karel Malkoun



Kristina Mileska



Tricia Collins

[<Read More>](#)

WIDC

Women In the Director's Chair
Career Advancement Module
Fall / Winter 2024/25



Collaborating Film Festivals
Reelworld Film Festival, Toronto
St John's International Film Festival



Jackie Torrens



Jessica Landry



Leah Doz



Marzia Kamyabi



Shetu Modi



Nedda Sarshar



Vanessa Sandre



Zeynep Güler-Tuck

[<<Read More>>](#)

WIDC Award Sponsors

In kind services, rentals, discounts and comps

WIDC Award Sponsors (in kind)

Platinum

MELS

Gold



Silver



Bronze



2024 WIDC Award Recipients

<<click photos for more>>



Feature Film Award

[Lu Asfaha, THEY ECHO](#)



Advantage Award

[Jenny Lee-Gilmore, DORMANT](#)



BANFF Fellowship

[Virginia Abramovich & Kate Green](#)



Just a small
sample of WIDC
alumni at 2024
film festivals



Aberdeen



Can I Get a Witness



Monica's News



Angela's Shadow



Darkest Miriam



NiiMiSak: Sisters In Film

WIDC Alumni 2024 Feature Films...

Aberdeen (TIFF, WFF, AIFF)

Eva Thomas, co-writer, co-director, producer

Can I Get a Witness (TIFF, VIFF, AIFF)

Ann Marie Fleming, writer, director, producer

Monica's News (AIFF, CIFF)

Pamela Gallant, writer, director

Angela's Shadow (VIFF, CIFF)

Dr. Jules Koostachin, writer, director, producer

Darkest Miriam (Tribeca, Fantasia, VTIFF, WFF)

Naomi Jaye, director

NiiMiSak: Sisters In Film (doc) (WFF: WP)

Dr. Jules Koostachin, writer, director, producer



Adrienne and the Castle



Do I Know You From Somewhere

WIDC Alumni 2024 Feature Films...

****Adrienne and the Castle** (SXSW)
Shannon Walsh, co-writer, director



40 Acres



Lucky Strikes

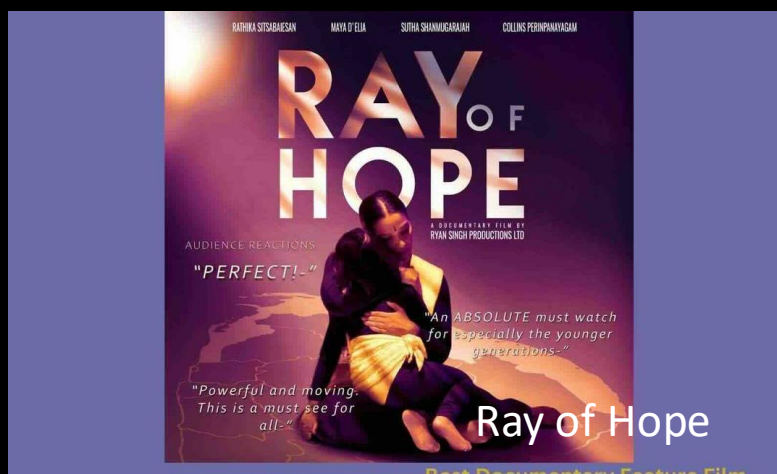
Do I Know You From Somewhere (AIFF, TIFF)
Gia Milani, executive producer

40 Acres (TIFF, AIFF, VIFF)
Lora Campbell, producer

Lucky Strikes (WFF)
Madison Thomas, producer



Village Keeper



Ray of Hope

Village Keeper (TIFF)
Lora Campbell, executive producer

****Ray of Hope (doc)** (multiple festivals)
Nikila Cole, co-writer, co-director, producer

****in consideration for 2025 Academy Awards**



Inedia



Party Pirate

WIDC Alumni 2024 Feature Films...

Inedia (VIFF)

Liz Cairns, writer, director

Party Pirate (SJIWFF)

Ruth Lawrence, co-writer, director

Sampling of Shorts...

Spirit Within (WFF)

Rachel Beaulieu, writer, director

Toe Pick (WFF)

Teresa Alfeld, writer, director

Unibrow (SJIWFF, WFF)

Nedda Sarshar, writer, director

*****Nigiqtuq (The Shout Wind)*** (multiple festivals)

Lindsay McIntyre writer, director, producer

Katrina Beatty, co-producer

****in consideration for 2025 Academy Awards**



Spirit Within



Toe Pick



Unibrow



Nigiqtuq (The South Wind)

Governance

Creative Women Workshops Association (CWWA), the non-profit society that oversees the Women In the Director's Chair (WIDC) initiative is led by a volunteer Board of Directors elected from among the CWWA membership which is comprised of WIDC alumni and individuals representing WIDC's co-founding organizations.



President & CEO
Dr. Carol Whiteman



Board Officer /
ACTRA Rep
Heather Allin



Board Director /
Alumni Rep
Dr. Jules Koostachin



Board Director / Alumni Rep
Rama Rau



Board Director / Alumni Rep
Siobhan Devine

WIDC is a co-creation of

Founding Organizations



ACTRA





For more information

KEY CONTACT:

Dr. Carol Whiteman
President & CEO, Creative Women Workshops Association (CWWA)
Co-creator & Producer, Women In the Director's Chair (WIDC)

PO Box 51505, 802 Main Street South Park Royal, West Vancouver, BC, V7T 2X9
carol@widc.ca | 778-809-0747 | <https://www.widc.ca>