



For Immediate Release

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**BC MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY BACKS WOMEN DIRECTORS:
MPPIA WIDC FEATURE FILM AWARD WINNER ANNOUNCED**

Vancouver, Canada – Creative Women Workshops Association (CWWA) and the Motion Picture Production Industry Association of BC (MPPIA) are pleased to announce the inaugural winner of a new award designed to encourage more feature films directed by women in British Columbia.

Director, writer and actress **Jacqueline Samuda** is the first recipient of the **MPPIA WIDC Feature Film Award**, set to be presented at the 2008 Spotlight Awards Gala in cooperation with Women in Film and Television – Vancouver (WIFT-Vancouver) on March 8 at 8 pm.

The award will support the completion of Samuda's comedy feature film project *Bread*. Valued at nearly \$100,000, the prestigious prize includes: in-kind rentals for one week at North Shore Studios, The Bridge, or Vancouver Film Studios; production equipment rentals from William F. White Ltd; and post production support from Deluxe Vancouver and Sharpe Sound Studios. In addition, BC Film has pledged a \$15,000 cash contribution towards the production of Samuda's first feature length production.

"For any filmmaker, the road from development to production can be a long one," says Samuda, who is also the current Chair of the Pacific Cinémathèque, and a past President of WIFT - Vancouver. "As a female filmmaker with some statistics to climb over, this is a real boost. I'm very grateful to MPPIA, to the Women In the Director's Chair (WIDC) program -- which has provided me with valuable training in the past -- and to all the sponsors."

"We are very pleased to support this award," affirms Peter Leitch, Chair of MPPIA and President, North Shore Studios. "It provides meaningful material support for Jacqueline as a director of her feature film project, and as a first of its kind award in Canada it represents industry leadership from some of the most significant companies in western Canada."

"*Bread* is a feel-good movie that pokes a bit of fun at the film industry and our struggles to stay connected in the hectic lives we lead. It will be a pleasure working with Jacqueline on the project," comments Carol Whiteman, Creative Women Workshops Association, President and CEO. "We'll be tracking the outcomes rippling forward from this award."

The award presentation will take place March 8th at 8:00 pm at the Vancity Theatre, 1181 Seymour Street, Vancouver. Tickets are available at www.ticketstonight.ca (key words Women In Film Spotlight) or phone the WIFT-V office 604-685-1152.

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Jacqueline Samuda is a writer/director/actress and has also worked extensively as a story editor and screenwriting instructor. She has recently completed the polish phase of development with Movie Central, Telefilm and BC Film on her feature film script, BREAD, which is slated to be her long-form directing début. BREAD also has interest from distributor Christal.

A director alumna of the 2002 Women In the Director's Chair Workshop, Jacqueline has made a positive imprint on the BC film and television industry as former president of Women In Film and Television-Vancouver and current Board chair of the Pacific Cinémathèque, and is the 2008 recipient of the Sharon Gibbon Lifetime Member Award for service to WIFT-V.

Jacqueline's Crazy 8's short film 50 QUESTIONS screened at the 22nd Annual Vancouver Film Festival, the 2003 Whistler Independent Film Festival (Best Short Runner-Up), the 2004 inaugural Vidfest Video Festival and WIFT-Vancouver's 2004 Summer Shorts, and now airs on Movieola. Her short film LOOK screened at the 2003 Cineworks' Salon, as well as at the 2002 Reelfast Gala as a Top Ten and Best Editor award-winner. Jacqueline has twenty years experience acting and doing voice-overs. She has two sons, aged two and three and is married to Rob Riley. For more information visit www.jacquelinesamuda.com.

Creative Women Workshops Association through initiatives like The Women In the Director's Chair Workshop, alumnae development modules and Awards like the MPPIA WIDC Feature Film Award, @Wallace Studios WIDC Alumnae Award and the WIDC Banff World Television Festival Fellowship, is dedicated to strengthening the voice of women story-tellers through the media of screen fiction and ensuring that voice is heard in all its diverse embodiments, across the country and globally. It is also committed to advancing the skills and talents of actors and crew in Canada. Contact: Carol Whiteman, President and CEO/WIDC Producer, 1.604.913.0747 or visit www.creativewomenworkshops.com

The Women In the Director's Chair Workshop (WIDC) is a one-of-a-kind annual professional development program specially designed to advance the leadership and creative capacities of eight mid-career women screen directors of fiction. Presented in partnership by Creative Women Workshops Association, The Banff Centre and ACTRA with the participation of a variety of film and television industry organizations including Telefilm Canada, CBC Television, CTvglobemedia, William F. White Ltd, Union of BC Performers / ACTRA, IATSE 669, Director's Guild of Canada BC, the Quebecor Fund, and the Independent Production Fund

MPPIA is the Motion Picture Production Industry Association of British Columbia – a broad-based film and television industry association 80 members strong and growing. Established in April 2002, MPPIA has emerged as the "voice and vision" of the motion picture production industry in British Columbia. MPPIA's diverse membership represents all sectors of the film industry and is proving extremely effective in working together and with various levels of government, NGO, business and community organizations to improve BC's competitiveness on the world stage. MPPIA members are steadfastly focused on the vision to grow, diversify and promote a globally competitive film industry in British Columbia.

The Banff Centre, Banff New Media Institute (BNMI) is devoted to research, production and academic exchange in the field of New Media. Each year research prototype labs, professional development workshops, co-productions, partnerships, project commissions, academic exchanges, and content development residencies provide opportunities for some of the most relevant and advanced discussion, production and research of new media in Canada and the world. Visit: www.banffcentre.ca/bnmi

ACTRA (Alliance of Canadian Cinema, Television and Radio Artists) is a national organization of more than 21,000 professional performers working in the English-language recorded media. We are self-employed artists working in feature films, TV, radio, digital media, corporate videos and commercials as dramatic actors, comedians, dancers, background performers, voice over specialists, singers, puppeteers, stunt performers – and more! Contact: Susan Ponting, National Public Relations Officer, 1.416.489.1311 ext 4045 or visit www.actra.ca