



ANA VALINE WINS \$120,000 PRIZE: WIDC Feature Film Award Announced

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Vancouver, Canada (March 2011) – Creative Women Workshops Association (CWWA) is thrilled to announce that award-winning filmmaker **Ana Valine** is the winner of the 2011 WIDC Feature Film Award, a \$120,000 in kind prize designed to encourage more feature films directed by women in British Columbia and supported by some of Canada’s most influential screen-industry companies.

This year’s award, administered by CWWA, will support Valine to complete her feature film directorial debut, ***Sitting On the Edge of Marlene***. The prestigious prize includes: in-kind rentals for one week at North Shore Studios or The Bridge Studios; production equipment rentals from William F. White Intl. and Panavision Canada; and post production support from Deluxe Vancouver and Post Modern Sound.

“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,” says Valine, a recent CTV WIDC Career Advancement Module grad honored at the 2011 Vancouver Women In Film Festival with a Legacy Award for her Canadian Film Centre short *How Eunice Got Her Baby*.

Valine adds, “This community has been an enormous support while I’ve grown as a writer and director. I look forward to taking the next big step with this award and the generosity of the sponsors and WIDC.”

“Ana will undoubtedly bring a great deal of humanity to the screen through the compelling characters of *Sitting On the Edge of Marlene*,” says Ed Brando, Sales Manager, William F White International. “We’re looking forward to working with the team on this deserving project.”

“WIDC alumnae are among the most talented filmmakers in the country, and it is critical to find practical ways like this award to further advance these worthy women directors and their projects. We are grateful that WIDC sponsors agree,” says Carol Whiteman, President & CEO CWWA and award-winning WIDC Producer. “Following this year’s award presentation with a screening of a previous winner’s film brings the award full circle and is real proof that the initiative is working.”

An encore screening of 2009 WIDC Feature Film Award winner and WIDC alumna **Katrin Bowen’s** dramatic feature film directorial debut, the award-winning ***Amazon Falls*** followed the presentation to Valine. Bowen’s direction of *Amazon Falls* has garnered her a WIFT Vancouver Spotlight Award for Artistic Achievement, and the Best Debut Feature Film Award at the 2011 Female Eye Film Festival. The film is now enjoying a cross-Canada theatrical release. For show times: www.amazonfalls.com.

Research shows that women still make up less than 10% of directors on feature film projects in Canada. The WIDC Feature Film Award represents industry leadership and support from some of the most significant industry members in Canada to help change that statistic. Creative Women Workshops Association has been working in partnership with these and a host of other companies, individuals and agencies like The Banff Centre, ACTRA, Telefilm Canada, CTV, the Quebecor Fund, Actra Fraternal Benefit Society, the Independent Production Fund, IATSE 669, and the Directors Guild of Canada, BC District among others, to help level the playing field for women screen directors in Canada through the acclaimed training program Women In the Director’s Chair and other initiatives.

CONTACTS:

Deidre Rowland, C Me Communications | 1-250-538-1107 or 1-778-888-9974 | media@cmepublicity.com
Carol Whiteman, CWWA / WIDC | 1-604-913-0747 | carol@creativewomenworkshops.com

BACKGROUNDER

ABOUT THE WIDC FEATURE FILM AWARD 2011 RECIPIENT



Photo by Christine Buijs

Ana Valine ~ is an award-winning writer and director who is recognized as one of Canada's emerging talents. She has written, directed and produced fiction, experimental and documentary short films. Most recently she directed **How Eunice Got Her Baby** through the Canadian Film Centre's Short Dramatic Film Program, which has won several awards. Valine also completed the Director's Lab at Canadian Film Centre after successfully producing 3 short films in 3 years. In 2010, she participated in the CTV WIDC Career Advancement Module at the Female Eye Film Festival where Valine also picked up the Best Short Film Award for Eunice. Her directorial debut, **alice and bastard**, has also earned numerous international awards and nominations. Ana makes her home in Vancouver and Toronto, where she continues to bring those who live on the outside into view.

Sitting On the Edge of Marlene is a feature film drama told through the eyes of fourteen -year old Sammie, a clean-living but quirkie survivor, obsessed with death, living with her pill-popping, alcoholic, con-artist mother Marlene in an apartment somewhere not unlike Vancouver's downtown east side. Valine's adaptation of the Billie Livingston novella (The Trouble With Marlene) takes us on a bitter-sweet, emotional journey, skating on either side of the law and Christian morals, through dysfunction, love and addiction towards a kind of deliverance for this compelling mother and daughter duo. Produced by Amber Ripley of Foundation Features.

ABOUT CREATIVE WOMEN WORKSHOPS ASSOCIATION

Creative Women Workshops Association (CWWA) is a national non-profit organization whose main activity, **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 mid-career women screen directors of fiction, presented in partnership with The Banff Centre, and ACTRA, with major support from Telefilm Canada, William F White Intl, Panavision Canada, CTV, Quebecor Fund, IATSE 669, IATSE 891, Directors Guild of Canada, BC, Actra Fraternal Benefit Society, Independent Production Fund and the participation of many others. www.creativewomenworkshops.com

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