



## \$120,000 WIDC FEATURE FILM AWARD FOR DIRECTOR MARIE CLEMENTS

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Vancouver, Canada (May 2012) – Creative Women Workshops Association (CWWA) is pleased to announce that award-winning filmmaker **Marie Clements** is the recipient of the 2012 WIDC Feature Film Award, a \$120,000 in kind prize designed to encourage more feature films directed by women in Canada and supported by some of Canada’s most influential western screen-industry companies.

This year’s award, administered by CWWA, will support Clements to complete her feature film directorial debut, **Stonefaces**. The prestigious prize includes: in-kind rentals for one week at North Shore Studios, The Bridge Studios or Vancouver Film 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 is a one of kind opportunity for the making of what we feel is our one of a kind movie - Stonefaces. I not only acknowledge this as a profound gift to a filmmaker but a legacy passed forward by an incredible cannon of women filmmakers that have made Women In the Director’s Chair a vibrant touchstone for giving voice, and championing the storyteller by creating change,” stated this year’s WIDC Feature Film Award-winner, Marie Clements.

Clements adds, “I am grateful to the ongoing support of the WIDC and the generous contribution of each sponsor ... I look forward to the great and beautiful challenge ahead. “

“Deluxe Vancouver is pleased to participate in practical ways to support the talented women directors and projects recognized by this award.” says Suzanne Thompson, Deluxe Vancouver. “We’re looking forward to working with the team on this deserving project.”

“We are very proud of the accomplishments of the winners of this coveted award,” says Carol Whiteman, President & CEO CWWA and award-winning WIDC Producer and recent winner of the WIFT Vancouver Women of the Year and the WITF Toronto Crystal Award for Mentorship. “Marie will undoubtedly bring a tacit finesse to the screen through the story and compelling characters of Stonefaces,”

**Stonefaces** will be the first feature filmed in a Coast Salish Language and one of only three features to be directed by an Aboriginal woman director in North America ever. 2010 WIDC Feature Film Award winner and WIDC alumna **Lulu Keating** has just gone to camera on her dramatic feature film **Lucille’s Ball** (aka *Based on a True Fantasy*). 2009 winner **Katrin Bowen’s** debut feature turn **Amazon Falls** earned a cross-Canada theatrical release, a WIFT Vancouver Spotlight Award for Artistic Achievement, and the Best Debut Feature Film Award at the 2011 Female Eye Film Festival. **Ana Valine**, 2011 winner is completing final development with her feature film directorial debut **Sitting on the Edge of Marlene** with mentorship support from acclaimed filmmakers **Denys Arcand** and **Deepa Mehta**.

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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:  
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## BACKGROUNDER

### ABOUT THE WIDC FEATURE FILM AWARD 2012 RECIPIENT



**Marie Clements** is an award-winning performer, writer, director, and producer. As a writer she has worked in a variety of mediums including theatre, film, new media, radio, and television. Her film *Unnatural and Accidental* directed by Carl Bessai and starring Tantoo Cardinal and Callum Keith Rennie was invited to premiere in New York at The Modern Museum of Art, and went on to screen at sixteen film festival's across the America's including the Toronto Film Festival and Vancouver Film Festival winning six awards and seven nominations at the Genie and Leo Awards. Her work has been broadcast on APTN and CBC and has garnered numerous awards and nominations: including being shortlisted for the Governor General's Literary Award (*Burning Vision*) and she has also created and acted in dozens of original stage plays. Marie is an alumna of the Women in the Director's Chair (**WIDC**) program, and the National

Screen Institute's Director's Intensive. Her experimental film *Jesus Indian* premiered summer 2011 at the Bordering Crossings Festival in London, and had its Canadian premiere at the Imaginative Festival in Toronto. The project for which Marie is winning this year's Feature Film Award, **Stonefaces** will be her feature film directorial debut.

#### **Stonefaces**

Set in Vancouver and the Te-Zho-Zhem First Nation, in British Columbia, **Stonefaces** is a modern telling of three Aboriginal siblings as they each face life and death challenges that force them to come to terms with the ancient world and their true lineage as healers.

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### 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, NBCUniversal, 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](http://www.creativewomenworkshops.com)

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, NBCUniversal, 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.

#### CONTACT:

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