

WIDC 2014 SIM 2.0

Director Participants



VALERIE BUHAGIAR
Toronto, ON

An awarding-winning filmmaker, actor and theatre artist, Valerie began her career as a puppeteer before earning a scholarship to study acting at George Brown Theatre School. Valerie is most recognized for her performance in Bruce McDonald's HWY 61 and ROAD KILL. She has acted in several films and television productions as well as hosting The Showcase Revue with Cameron Bailey. Valerie's directorial debut, THE PASSION OF RITA CAMILLERI, won 7 awards, and was the first of many to receive international acclaim. She has gone on to making 15 short films that all have been well received and awarded internationally. The Karlov Vary Film Festival had a retrospective of her work. Valerie has just wrapped from directing a short Sci Fi titled SUBJECT 1 for Andrisk inc. in association with Media at Large. She is on the selection committee for the Female Eye Film Festival. She was on the jury for TIFF's Canadian Features in 2012. And in 2013 she was a participant in the Director's Labat TIFF.

Valerie's recent theatre work includes We Are Not Afraid of the Dark (one woman show, Frankfurt and the Theatre Centre in Toronto) and Peter and Valerie that she co-created at the National Theatre, UK and Magnetic North, Canada. Valerie is currently developing three feature scripts as a writer/director along with two new theatre pieces. In March 2014, Valerie will participate in one of the director's chairs at the upcoming WIDC Story Incubation Module -WIDC 2.0 in Vancouver to work on her first feature film SLUTS. Valerie's mentors include Anna Stratton, Bruce McDonald, and Don McKellar



CHRISTENE BROWN
Toronto, ON

Born in St. Kitts, Browne moved with her family to Toronto's Regent Park in 1970. It was in this community where the seeds of Browne's filmmaker career were planted.

She attended the film program at Ryerson Polytechnic Institute. Her first two films *Brothers in Music*, a film about two struggling jazz musicians and *No Choices*, a film that looked at the abortion issue and how it relates to women living in poverty debuted at the Toronto International Film Festival in 1991 and launched Browne's film career. From that time onward Browne has consistently produced work that has tackled hard-hitting topics such as poverty, the welfare system, social inequalities and marginalization.

Browne's films have won numerous awards and have been screened and broadcasted internationally. In 1999 Browne completed the semi -autobiographical film *Another Planet*, which became the first feature film to be directed by a Black woman in Canada. In 2007 Browne completed *Speaking in Tongues: The History of Language*, a ground breaking documentary series that features Noam Chomsky. In 2011, Browne was awarded the Documentary Filmmaker prize at the Women's International Film and Television Showcase Visionary Awards.

Her first novel *Two Women* was released last fall.



KIRSTEN GAUGHIER
Vancouver, BC

Born and raised in the Northwest Territories, Kirsten moved to Vancouver in 2009 to pursue a career in film. After graduating with honors from the Acting stream at Vancouver Film School, she spent some time exploring the industry and turned her attention to writing, directing and producing, generating seven short films. Her short film SWIMMING IN CIRCLES recently screened at the Post Alley Film Festival in Seattle.

Kirsten's goal as an artist is to produce emotionally capturing feature films that focus on themes of Social Justice. In autumn of 2014 she will be returning to her hometown to film her first full-length feature, THE LAST CARIBOU; a story about three friends who in standing up for their community end up going through a journey of self-discovery.

[Link to Examples of Previous Work](https://vimeo.com/user10388688)

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PATRICIA HARRIS SEELEY
Redwood Meadows, AB

Patricia Harris Seeley is a Gemini Award-nominated and AMPIA Award-winning writer/director. Her credits include reality series X-Weighted, Puppy SOS, Divine Life, DreamChasers, one off documentaries, and several award-winning short films including FARMER. She has received several options, three Harold Greenberg Funds and the NSI Roundtable for her feature-length screenplays. Two of her theatre plays have won best actress awards under her direction at regional one-act festivals. Past president of Women in Film & Television (WIFT) - Alberta, Patricia currently sits on the board of directors for WIFT - International. Her short sci-fi film, THE CONSORT for which she received the WIDC @Wallace Award is in currently in post production at The Banff Centre.

[Link to Examples of Previous Work](http://vimeo.com/73748538)

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KATHLEEN HEPBURN – (TO BE CONFIRMED)
Vancouver, BC



GAIL MAURICE
Toronto, ON

Gail is a Métis filmmaker, proud to speak her language Michif/Cree. She founded Assini Productions Inc. in 2006 to produce quality Indigenous films. Gail began her career as an actor in 1992 but branched into filmmaking in 2004. The film, Johnny Greyeyes, was a turning point for her. She not only starred in the film, she co-wrote it.

Gail's written dramatic screenplays, documentaries and a 13 part music series which can be seen on APTN. Her films have screened in film festivals worldwide. She was one of five Canadian filmmakers to be selected to attend the Sundance film festival in 2006, with her film, "Smudge". She was also selected to Michael Moore's Traverse City Film Festival. "Thirst", is her most recent film, a film about uranium in the drinking water of Keewaywin, a Northern Ontario First Nations community.

Gail was a recipient of the 2008 Quebecor Documentary Fellowship, presented by Hot Docs and DOC Toronto. Gail also received the Alliance Atlantis Mentorship award, with Cindy Witten, VP History Channel at the 2005 ImagineNATIVE film festival (now the Director General of NFB English Program).

Gail's next project is a drama to be shot in Northern Saskatchewan using non-actors who will be speaking Michif/Cree.



BRIANNE NORD-STEWART
Vancouver, BC

Brianne can often be found wearing many hats on a film set. From writing, directing, editing, and producing her own films, Brianne works in grip/electrics, script supervision, and the camera department. As a writer/director, comedy is often the genre of choice for Brianne who enjoys depicting taboo conversations as an analysis of institutional structures of oppression with regards to sexuality. In her practice, Brianne explores perspective as a human condition and is focused on accessing the frameworks of fragmented memory and loss of innocence. Brianne gained recognition internationally with her award winning short film *Trolls* ('09), and then *The Provider* ('11) for which she won the Shaw Media's Fearless female director award and which toured genre festivals across North America.

[Link to Examples of Previous Work](#)

TROLLS (2009)

URL: <http://vimeo.com/16707326>

password: T3j465QXg2567

There comes a time in every kids life when they realize their parents are up to more than just "cleaning" their room.

THE PROVIDER (2011)

URL: <http://vimeo.com/23868862>

WHERE DO SONGS COME FROM (2013)

URL: <http://vimeo.com/72797453>

In collaboration with singer Hannah Epperson



THERESA WYNNYK
Edmonton, AB

Theresa Wynnyk is an established filmmaker making her living producing and directing films and television programs in Edmonton. Her production company, Company of Women on the Screen, specializes in producing women's and social issue documentaries.

- Demonstrated ability as a producer responsible for engaging talent and crew, overseeing productions for inception to completion and smooth liaison with broadcasters.
- Experience in applying for Canadian content Numbers, E&O insurance, Post-production and Broadcaster deliverables as per license agreements, Tax credits, etc.
- Produced her own productions as well as video and DVD productions for various agencies and companies, broadcast and web.

[Link to Examples of Previous Work](#)

<http://youtu.be/tjpUu7-2VSS>

This is a trailer for a film on which Terri is currently in production.