

# THE WOMEN IN THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR WORKSHOP

## 2004 Director Participant Bios

(in alphabetical order)

### **BENTZ, Tammy, Vancouver, BC**

Bentz is a respected theatre, film and television actor (THE "F" WORD, POINT BLANK), playwright, co-artistic director and co-founder of the international award-winning full figure theatre company, an accomplished script supervisor for films and television series (EDGEMONT) and short filmmaker (CHOMP). She has directed and produced numerous live theatre events throughout Western Canada. Bentz, committed to creating projects that reflect the stories of interesting female protagonists, is in pre-production on a documentary about Master Acting Teacher, Micki Maunsell.

### **DUCHARME, Carole, Vancouver, BC**

Ducharme has written, directed and produced documentaries, animation and two short fiction films, including the half-hour comedy STRAIGHT FROM THE SUBURBS, winner of two Nell Shipman Production Excellence Awards, including Best Short Film, and presented in more than 35 international film festivals. Following WIDC she is set to direct a short film, OUT OF SIGHT and her first feature, THE WOMEN OF MY LIFE that has the distribution interest of Odeon Films and the support of Telefilm, NSI Features First, BC Film and the Harold Greenburg Fund.

### **HANNIGAN, Teresa, Toronto, ON**

Hannigan is an award-winning film and television editor (THE ELEVENTH HOUR, THE ASSOCIATES, TRADERS) and writer who after 20 years in the industry is making the transition to the director's chair. In 2004/2005 she plans to be in production with SCARLET RUNNERS, a short story she has adapted and will workshop a scene from at WIDC.

### **LIPPA, Christine, Vancouver, BC**

Over her more than 15-year career Lippa has acted in film (LITTLE WOMEN), television, radio and animation, hosted for television (ZERO AVENUE), done stand up (YUK YUKS, PUNCHLINES) and a hit one-woman show that she co-wrote (THE VACANT BACHELOR). She has produced segments for CBC EVENING NEWS and 50 UP and is in development with a half-hour sitcom for television.

### **MENDEZ, Binky, Vancouver, BC**

Born and raised in Mumbai, India, Mendez has been directing and producing TV commercials and documentaries since 1993. She is the writer/ director of the feature-length docu-drama, BIRTH OF A GOD. Upon moving to Canada she completed the Canadian Film Centre Director's Lab Program (AAFRP) with her short films RESTORATION and NO PLACE TO HIDE. Mendez is currently directing an interactive film, GOLDEN GHOST and is developing several projects including, GURU HOP and YEAR TEN.

### **MORRISEAU, Renae, Vancouver, BC**

Morriseau has worked within the Aboriginal communities in Manitoba and BC for most of her life. An award-winning actress (BEARWALKER) she began as a co-host for television with Tom Jackson on FIRST NATIONS. She went on to write, direct and produce television documentaries (INDEGINI - NATIVE WOMEN: POLITICS, and the award-winning THE MEDICINE WHEEL, AIYANNA MARACLE- WHISPERS FROM THE GRANDMOTHERS and WHOSE LAND IS THIS?). Morriseau is developing a short film, FOUR RACES, while she continues to mentor youth in video production, theatre, and music.

### **NGO, Anne-Marie, Montreal, QC**

In development with a feature film script supported by SODEC, a television series and a number of short films, Ngo is a graduate of the INIS Director's Program where she directed 3 shorts, including DECONNECTE, produced by Josée Roberge and INIS, for which she received the Claude-Jutra Foundation bursary and a documentary, DIVA DI DUCA. Her directing work with Klik Animation Inc (the KLOOTZ series) is currently being broadcast on Canada's cartoon networks in both French and English.

### **PALMER, Alisa, Toronto, ON**

Palmer has directed the creation and premiere of numerous landmark Canadian plays including SMUDGE by Alex Bulmer, SIBS by Diane Flacks and Richard Greenblatt, and the musical ANYTHING THAT MOVES, book by Ann-Marie MacDonald with Palmer, music by Allen Cole. Palmer directs in theatres across the country, often remounting and touring her productions from coast to coast. She is the recipient of two Chalmers Awards, was Artistic Director of Nightwood Theatre from 1994-2001 and is crossing over to directing for screen with a short film she plans to workshop a scene from at WIDC.