

WIDC 2007 DIRECTOR PARTICIPANT



KATRIN BOWEN, Vancouver, BC

From growing up in a Mennonite community in Linden, Alberta, to acting in a series of kickboxing films for Troma, to studying Mesopotamian Archaeology at the University of California at Berkeley, to directing independent films in Vancouver, Katrin Bowen has led a colourful life.

Her directing career began at Berkeley. For her graduation thesis she made an award-winning documentary on rap music entitled SPITTING REALITY.

In Vancouver, Katrin directs documentaries and award-winning videopoems. The films she makes show a side of Canada rarely portrayed in film. Indeed, the marginalized and culturally diverse communities she focuses on tend to be overlooked, and yet are an integral part of our Canadian fabric.

SOMEONE and ALMOST FORGOT MY BONES are videopoems. Videopoetry is a relatively new arts medium that has taken Canada by storm, and has helped build a new resurgence of spoken word in Vancouver. Vancouver hosts one of four Videopoetry festivals in the world, and the calibre of work in this new genre is phenomenal. At last year's videopoetry festival, SOMEONE won the Audience Choice Award, and Katrin was honoured to receive the Vision Award for Best Director. SOMEONE features the women of the downtown eastside of Vancouver. They have led harrowing lives; barely survived drug abuse and abuse from the streets, and yet their power and strength shine through in this intense film.

ALMOST FORGOT MY BONES explores the theme of identity. To facilitate the making of this videopoem, Katrin received a directing grant from the Canada Council for the Arts. Most recently, ALMOST FORGOT MY BONES won the Best International Film Award at the Chroma festival in Guadajara, Mexico and the Audience Choice award at the 2004 Vancouver Videopoetry Festival.

Last May, Katrin won a scholarship to study at the Cannes Producing Intensive at the Cannes Film Festival. She recently wrote the feature script OFF COURSE, which she plans to direct later this year.