

WIDC 2007 DIRECTOR PARTICIPANT

LAURENCE VERON, Winnipeg, MB



Laurence (no, her name is not spelled with a W; and, yes, she is female!) Véron was born in Paris in 1966. After discovering modern dance at the tender age of 5, dreaming but failing to become a professional photographer, studying English Lit at La Sorbonne instead, moving to Scotland for two years and getting a Master's Degree in French didactics, Véron immigrated in Canada in 1990.

In what she now calls her "former life" - before the epiphany that came to her while shooting her first documentary -, she taught French grammar and stylistics for ten years at Saint-Boniface College to an audience of sleepy, bored and disbelieving students. Véron escaped this tedious profession by dancing and writing academic papers, poetry (not very good!), short stories, and a one-act play that made it to the stage with Saint-Boniface's Cercle Moliere and has been turned into a 30-minute screenplay. She was also on the board of CINÉMENTAL, Winnipeg's Festival of French-language Films, for a few years.

In 1999, a local independent producer was looking for new talents and fresh ideas: Véron jumped on the opportunity to combine two of her many passions, film and literature. She wrote and directed *LE BLÉ ET LA PLUME*, a documentary on the Franco-Manitoban literary circle that she had got to know so well. This first documentary was nominated in the four major categories (directing, photography, sound and editing) at the 2001 Blizzard Awards (the Manitoban Oscars!). Véron won as best non-dramatic director... and that was it, there was no looking back after that!

Véron quit her teaching job and she has been intensely working since 2000. As a writer-director, she has worked on different documentary TV-series, such as *PROFILS* and *VISAGES DE L'ANXIÉTÉ* for TFO, and *PASSION SANS ENTRACTE* for ArtTV. She also wrote and directed a one-hour documentary for Radio-Canada, entitled *DE LA SOURCE AU RUISSEAU*. Two of her documentaries, *LE BLÉ ET LA PLUME* and *ÉTIENNE GABOURY: ART ET ARCHITECTURE*, were presented at the Montreal International Art Films Festival in 2003 and 2004.

Véron has also been pursuing her life-long interest in fiction. She has seized every opportunity to take workshops in writing and directing drama. She studied both at the Institut National de l'Image et du Son, where she worked as a writer with WIDC alumna Carole Ducharme on a 15-minute screenplay and as a director for her first short drama, *LE BOSS* (written by Éric Cormier). In September 2004, she had the chance to sharpen her directing skills under the direction of Toronto actress, Rosemary Dunsmore. To be perfectly bilingual gives Véron the chance and the pleasure to have twice as much fun with twice as many people! – and she always enjoys meeting new people and explore them inside out.

Véron's passion for the cinema includes all aspects of the trade and she eventually turned to editing for an independent feature-film, *M. MIRPOIS* (directed by Thomas Bres) and for an APTN documentary-series. This new position has enhanced her collaborative approach by having her make use of her talents for the interest of someone else's projects – a very humbling and inspiring experience! And it has reinforced even more her already-acute taste for anything to do with images and story-telling...

For the future, she doesn't plan on choosing between writing, directing and editing, but rather hopes to keep on doing all three!