

WIDC 2009 PERSONNEL BIOGRAPHIES
PPPM Mentors & Guests

MENTOR DIRECTOR



KARI SKOGLAND
LA, CA / Toronto, ON

Named one of Hollywood Reporter's "Ten Directors to Watch" for her debut feature film *LIBERTY STANDS STILL*, award-winning filmmaker Kari Skogland's most recent feature film *50 DEAD MEN WALKING* starring Sir Ben Kingsley, won the Citytv Western Canadian Feature Film Award from the Vancouver International Film Festival and has just been named one of TIFF's Top Ten for 2008. *50 DEAD MEN WALKING* will be released in the spring of 2009.

Her 2008 released best-seller adaptation of *THE STONE ANGEL*, starring Ellen Burstyn, Ellen Page and Kevin Zeiglers also premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival and Kari was nominated for a Writers Guild of Canada Award for Best Screenplay and Director's Guild of Canada award for Best Director and Best Film.

Kari began by directing award-winning commercials and music videos. Her award-winning television work includes the enormously successful series *TRADERS* (nominated for 9 Gemini's including Best Director and won Best Series). *WHITE LILIES*, a movie for CBC, went on to be nominated for several Gemini's, for an International Emmy as well as winning a Tout Ecran. Her films *THE SIZE OF WATERMELONS* starring Donal Logue and Paul Rudd, *MEN WITH GUNS* starring Donal Logue and Callum Keith Renne, and *LIBERTY STANDS STILL* (written by Kari as well) starring Wesley Snipes and Linda Fiorentino, have all screened and won awards at major festivals in the US and around the world.

Kari is also known for her unique ability to combine intense action with award-winning drama.

A Directors Guild of Canada Best Director Award recipient for the mini-series *TERMINAL CITY*, Kari was the honoured director at the 2008 Female Eye Film Festival.

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MENTOR ACTOR



IRIS QUINN
Vancouver, BC

This year marks Iris' 40th year as a professional actor!

She began her career at the age of seventeen playing a squirrel at the Charlottetown Theatre Festival, and it's been a wild and varied ride ever since. Iris has always enjoyed mentoring actors, and for some reason, only known to a higher power, she was blessed with the ability to understand the thespian psyche, and the ability to help actors navigate through text. She holds a BA degree in creative writing from Mount Allison University, and enjoys the challenges of dramaturgy and script analysis.

Her actor bio can be found on IMDB, or viewed on her website: www.irisquinn.com. Highlights include recurring roles on television series, ABC's LIFE AS WE KNOW IT, DEAD MAN'S GUN, COLD SQUAD (CTV) and the Showtime series OUT OF ORDER, where she played mother to Eric Stoltz. She co-starred with Giancarlo Gianinni in the film GREENER FIELDS, and her supporting lead role in the cult classic zombie film SLITHER, garnered her some notoriety with the standout quote "Get out of the car Kylie, it's family fun day!"

Iris had the honour of being appointed to the position of acting teacher for the UBC film department in 2004. There she liaised between the actors and directors, bringing film acting techniques to the theatre trained acting students. Iris was part of the acting ensemble at WIDC in 2005, and she is looking forward to once again being immersed in the creative process of production at WIDC 2009!

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MENTOR DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY



ROGER VERNON
Canmore, AB

A native of Alberta, Roger Vernon has combined his love of the mountains and his desire to make images into a flourishing career as an internationally respected cinematographer.

In the thirty-three years since attending The Banff Centre's Visual Communications program, he has applied his skills throughout the genres in motion picture photography. Educational films, documentaries, commercials and narrative are all part of his visual language. He is perhaps best known for his mountain and adventure related subjects, which have taken him into the remotest corners of the globe.

Roger has worked on a number of feature length dramas, most notably UNFORGIVEN, the 1992 western that was nominated for best cinematography and won four Academy awards including Best Picture. Most recently in 2005, he photographed the CBC production WAKING UP WALLY – The Walter Gretzky Story and photographed the second units for both R.V. directed by Barry Sonnenfeld, and BROKEN TRAIL directed by Walter Hill.

Other productions that include his work are: LEGENDS OF THE FALL, THE EDGE, ALASKA, ALIVE, PAYCHECK, ELEKTRA and MYSTERY, ALASKA to name but a few. With numerous nominations for direction and cinematography to his credit, he is the recipient of a Gemini award for cinematography, three cinematography awards from the Alberta Motion Picture Industry Association and a Golden Sheaf for cinematography from the Yorkton Film Festival.

Roger has earned the admiration and respect of his peers for both his achievements as a cinematographer and his dedication to mentoring the next generation of filmmakers.

He was inducted into the prestigious Canadian Society of Cinematographers in 1993. Roger is a voting member of the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television and is the past President of the International Photographers Guild, IATSE local 669.

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MENTOR DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY



ATTILA SZALAY
North Vancouver, BC

ATTILA SZALAY hsc, csc was born in Budapest, Hungary and immigrated with his parents to England in 1967. They moved to Calgary a year later where he became interested in filmmaking in the seventh grade. The progressive school allowed him to delve into cinematography and by the time he graduated, he had decided to pursue this as a career.

He subsequently attended Sheridan College in Ontario, graduating with a degree in film production and cinematography, after which he began working as a camera assistant on National Film Board documentaries, corporate films and music videos. Between 1990 and 1996, he worked with his mentor Laszlo George, CSC, HSC on more than 30 film projects as his operator.

Szalay became a director of photography in the mid-1990's. His television series and movie credits include *The Outer Limits*, *The X-Files*, *Critical Assembly*, *Smallville*, *The L. Word*, *Peacemakers*, *Touching Evil*, and *The Mountain*. More recently he completed *To Love and Die in L.A.*, *Masters of Horror*, *Split Decision* and *Touch the Top of the World*. Following *Iron Road*, Szalay is shooting the series *Reaper*.

Szalay earned CSC nominations for Best Cinematography for the pilot of *Peacemakers* and an episode of *Smallville*.

He lives in Vancouver, B.C. with his wife, (actress) Tatiana Szalay and their two children Jacob and Stephen.

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MENTOR PRODUCTION DESIGNER



JOHN BLACKIE
Cochrane, AB

John has worked in the film and television industry for over 30 years garnering numerous awards and nominations for his work. He has production designed across Canada including seven feature films with filmmaker Anne Wheeler, winning an AMPPIA Award for Best Art Direction for *BYE BYE BLUES* and a Gemini nomination for *THE DIVINERS*. His television series work, to name a few, includes *LONESOME DOVE: THE OUTLAW YEARS*, *HONEY I SHRUNK THE KIDS: THE TV SERIES*, *MYTHQUEST*, *DINOSAURIEN*, the German series *IM TAL DER WILDEN ROSEN*, and *MUTANT X* for which he was nominated for a Gemini Award and a DGC Craft Award for achievement in production design.

Movies of the Week too numerous to list include *PROBABLE CAUSE*, *WAKING UP WALLY: THE WALTER GRETZKY STORY*, *AGENT OF INFLUENCE* (Gemini nomination), and *TO SERVE AND PROTECT: TRAGEDY AT MAYERTHORPE*, now in post production.

Starting as a graphic designer for *ACCESS* the educational television station in Alberta, John has an appreciation for the learning process and the inspiration it can offer to individuals at every stage in their careers.

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MENTOR EDITOR



LISA BINKELY
Vancouver, BC

Award-winning editor Lisa Binkley began her career in post-production in 1989. Since then she has been nominated for a Leo Award for best picture editing of the feature length drama *HERE'S TO LIFE*, which starred Eric McCormack, Ossie Davis and Kim Hunter. This year, her work was recognized when she received both a Leo Award and a Gemini Award for her editing of the 6 part mini-series *HUMAN CARGO*. This epic mini-series was produced by Howe Sound Films and Force Four Entertainment and was directed by Brad Turner. Nominated for 17 Geminis, *HUMAN CARGO* was shot in Canada and South Africa with an international cast starring Kate Nelligan and Nicholas Campbell.

After studying theatre and film production at the University of British Columbia, she went on to complete the two-year Media Resources Program at Capilano College.

There, Lisa directed the educational docu-drama *IT'S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY*, which won the International Television Association's Gold Cloud Award for best student production. Upon completion of her post secondary studies, she worked as an assistant editor on such television series as *MACGYVER*, *MAX GLICK*, *MOM PI* and numerous movies of the week.

Lisa's first editing opportunity came on the CBC teen drama *NORTHWOOD*. Since then she has edited numerous television series and movies of the week such as *MADISON COLD SQUAD*, *TOUCHING EVIL*, *JINNAH ON CRIME*, *THE NEW BEACHCOMBERS* and *THE CHRIS ISAAK SHOW*. Her work on MGM's critically acclaimed science fiction series, *THE OUTER LIMITS*, and Ilene Chaiken's ground breaking drama *THE L-WORD*, has given Lisa the opportunity to work with such directors as Helen Shaver, Rose Troche, Lynne Stopkewich and Alison MacLean.

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MENTOR EDITOR



DARIA ELLERMAN, C.C.E.
Coquitlam, BC

Daria Ellerman is a picture editor with over 18 years experience working in documentaries, television series and feature films. After receiving a bachelor of arts from The University of British Columbia in Film and Television Studies, she was awarded one of the first apprenticeship awards from the Canadian Academy of Film and Television. In the course of a year she apprenticed with award winning editor Frank Irvine and later became his assistant.

In 1990 Daria produced an educational documentary with partner Sharon Gibbon called "There is No Such Thing as Garbage" which was directed by Moira Simpson and continues to be in distribution.

Credits include over 150 hours of television series including "Jpod", "The Dead Zone", "Stargate", "The Outer Limits", "The Chris Isaak Show", "The Collector" and "Blood Ties" with directors Bryan Singer, Holly Dale, Jon Cassar, Bryan Spicer, Michael Robison, Rachel Talalay and Mike Clattenberg. Most recently Daria worked on "Samurai Girl" a four-hour mini-series for ABC Family and "Exes and Ohs", a half hour dramedy for LOGO, Showcase and Superchannel. Long form work includes "Christmas on Chestnut Street" directed by Anne Wheeler.

She has been nominated for 5 LEO AWARDS and a GEMINI AWARD as picture editor and won a LEO AWARD in 2005 for her work on the television series, "The Collector".

Daria is a founding member of the Canadian Cinema Editors. Volunteer work includes jurying for the Geminis and working for the Vancouver International Film Festival. She was a mentor editor for the 2008 Women in the Director Chair.

She is a native of Winnipeg, Manitoba and currently resides in Coquitlam, British Columbia with her husband and son.

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MENTOR AUDIO POST PRODUCTION

JONATHAN STEVENS

TBA