

## WIDC 2011 PERSONNEL BIOGRAPHIES

### PPPM Mentors & Guests

#### MENTOR DIRECTOR



#### GAYLENE PRESTON

Gaylene Preston is a storyteller whose films have a distinctive flavour that entertains while presenting serious subjects with humour and warmth.

Preston's films have been in official selection for most major international film festivals – Venice, Sundance, Toronto, London, Sydney, Melbourne and New Zealand and have won awards in USA, Canada, France, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Switzerland, Russia, Australia and New Zealand.

Her feature films include *Mr Wrong* (1985), *Ruby and Rata* (1990), *Bread & Roses* (1993) *War Stories Our Mothers Never Told Us* (1995) and *Perfect Strangers* starring Sam Neil (2003). Her major documentaries for television include *Hone Tuwhare* (1996), *Titless Wonders* (2001), *Earthquake* (2006), *Time of Our Lives* (2007) and *Lovely Rita* (2007).

Her latest feature film *Home By Christmas* released in NZ cinemas April 2010 is currently the 14<sup>th</sup> highest grossing New Zealand film at the NZ Box Office. WINNER \*Best Actor Tony Barry, and WINNER \*Best Soundtrack at the NZ Qantas Film Awards. Lead actor Tony Barry was singled out for a Highly Commended Award at the 4th Annual Asia Pacific Screen Awards 2010 by the Jury chaired by Lord David Puttnam

*"Combining documentary and narrative film-making techniques with skill and imagination, Gaylene Preston has created a boldly personal film that is both sincere and significant."*  
Michael Hayden, festival programmer of the BFI London Film Festival

She has served on most film industry boards including the NZ Film Commission, the NZ Broadcasting Commission (NZ On Air), chaired the NZ Film and Television Awards Society, and the NZ Arts Council Innovation Fund.

In 2001, Preston was honoured by the New Zealand Arts Foundation, becoming New Zealand's first Filmmaker Laureate. In 2002 she was appointed an Officer of the NZ Order of Merit for services to filmmaking.

<http://www.gaylenepreston.com>  
<http://www.homebychristmas.com/>

#### MENTOR ACTOR



#### G. CHRISTIANNE HIRT SHAW

Christianne began her professional career in 1982, playing the role of Jill/Peggy opposite James Gardner, Colleen Dewherst, and John Lithgow in the feature film *The Glitterdome*. She has since played over 60 lead and supporting lead roles in feature films, MOW's, and in series television. Other credits include the lead role of Lill in the feature *For the Moment* (opposite Russell Crowe); Lori LaRoche in *Skate* for which she won international recognition and a Gemini Nomination for Best Dramatic Actress; female lead role of Hannah Peale on *Lonesome Dove* (the series—first season). And, her critically acclaimed performance in the lead role of Jennie in the feature film, *Heart of the Sun*, for which she won the 1999 AMPPIA Award for Best Actress. *'One of the highest honors, however, is teaching our daughter, who, after much soul-searching, has chosen the path of the actor'.*

#### Instructor...

Throughout a professional career that has spanned nearly 30 years, Christianne studied extensively in Vancouver, LA and New York. Christianne is Co-founder of Company of Rogue's Actor's Studio (est.1993-present), the creative home she shares with her husband, (acclaimed actor/director Joe-Norman Shaw), training and mentoring over 100 students at any given time. Rogue's is her touchstone; where the focus is on the evolution of the artist through Doing the Work and our collective practice of, and dedication to, the craft. Christianne often teaches workshops in her home-town, Vancouver. Recently, two of her Vancouver students won the 2010 Gemini Award(s); Jared Keeso, Best Actor in the title role of Don Cherry; The Don Cherry Story-Keep You're Head Up Kid; and Benjamin Arthur Gutknecht, Best Comedic Actor, in the series Less Than Kind. Christianne is often invited to fulfill the role of Mentor Actor for the Women in the Director's Chair program at the Banff Centre, where she will be serving again in 2011.

#### Director, Writer...

Alumna of the Women In the Director's Chair program at the Banff Centre, Christianne directed the short film *Craving*, which appeared at the Calgary International Film Festival in 2005 and now has distribution. She recently founded Philosophia Films Inc., and on a daily basis Christianne pursues her passion writing screenplays. Christianne divides her time between both her homes; Calgary and Vancouver.

**Professional Affiliations:** ACTRA/CAEA

#### Classes...

[Advanced Film & Television](#)  
[Advanced Meisner Technique](#)  
[Meisner Training](#)

*"What Christianne has always taught me; an ounce of behaviour is worth a pound of words...She is so successful at coaching and pulling intention out of an actor because of her years of experience as an actor herself. She understands the business as well as the artistic nurture involved in a captivating performance."* - Benjamin Arthur (Winner LEO AWARDS 2009, Best Supporting Performance by a Male in a Dramatic Series; Winner CANADIAN COMEDY AWARD 2009; and GEMINI Nominated 2009, Best Individual Performance in a Comedy Program or Series -Star of the Canadian TV Series LESS THAN KIND.) **Winner of the 2010 Gemini Award for Best Actor, Best Comedic Actor for LESS THAN KIND**

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### MENTOR DIRECTORS OF PHOTOGRAPHY



#### TONY WESTMAN, DGA, DGC , CSC

Tony Westman has been involved with filmmaking since 1968 when he walked into what was known then as the SFU film workshop... and empty room with a set of re-winds and a bolex camera.

After graduating in 1970 with Bachelor's degree in Political Science, Anthropology and Sociology (PSA) he began working with the National Film Board of Canada as an assistant cameraman. He went on to photograph numerous documentaries for them and directed several documentaries: *Salmon People*, *Beluga Baby* and *Family Down the Fraser*. In 1978 Tony joined Simon Fraser Film Department as an Assistant Professor, teaching for two years and then moved to Emily Carr College as film instructor for one year. In 1980 he incorporated Beluga Productions, specializing in science and educational films, and did projects for the Science Council of BC and the Vancouver Aquarium. In 1985 he worked with design firm Aldrich Pears Associates and Expo -86 projects Alberta, Saskatchewan and B.C pavilions. He designed the Horizon's Theater for the Saskatchewan Pavilion and produced an innovative film that involved a live performer on stage that interacts with characters in a motion picture on a 35 ft screen.

As Hollywood began using Vancouver as a branch plant, Tony worked on numerous TV productions as a Director of Photography, including *MacGyver*, *UC Undercover*, *Black Sash*, *The Sentinel*, *Dead Like Me*, *the 4400* and many more. He had the special opportunity to work with Fraser Heston on two feature films for *Castle Rock*, Steven King's horror genre *Needful Things* and the epic, *Alaska*, with 'Aggie the polar bear'. Tony also had the opportunity to direct episodes of *The Sentinel*, *The Crow*, *Fearing Mind*, *Dead Like Me* and *the 4400*.

Most recently, Tony worked with Canadian filmmaker Sturla Gunnarsson on the award-winning documentary *Force of Nature* celebrating the life and career of noted scientist Dr. David Suzuki.

Tony is married with two daughters and lives in West Vancouver, B.C.



#### PETER WOESTE, C.S.C.

Peter was born in Unna, Germany and immigrated to Canada with his family at the age of 9. His childhood hobby of photography and fascination with cameras led to film studies at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology and later at the American Film Institute under the tutelage of various mentors including notables such as, Vittorio Storaro, Vilmos Zsigmond, Laszlo Kovacs, Vic Kemper, Howard Schwartz, Dick Glouner, and others.

Over the course of Peter Woeste's 38 year career in film and television, he has been recognized with over 18 awards and nominations including 3 Gemini Award nominations, an American Society of Cinematographers nomination, 2 Leo nominations, a Blizzard Award and a Canadian Society of Cinematographers Award among many others. His work on the television movie *Christmas Snow* contributed to an Emmy Award win for Best Cinematography and 9 years later, he was also part of the team receiving an Emmy Award nomination for Best Mini-Series for *In Cold Blood*.

Since 1999, Peter has directed a dozen episodes of *Stargate SG-1* and it's spin-off *Stargate Atlantis* as well as working as Director of Photography on 94 episodes of the series.

In addition to *Stargate SG-1*, Peter's television DOP credits include *Double Bill* (BBC), *Coliseum* (USA Network), *Video Voyeur: The Susan Wilson Story* (Lifetime), *Escape From Mars* (Paramount/UPN), *In Cold Blood* (CBS/Hallmark), *For Those Who Hunt the Wounded Down* (CBC), *The Outer Limits* (MGM/Atlantis/Showtime), *Profit* (FOX), *The Ruby Silver* (ABC), *Sliders* (FOX/Universal), *Neon Rider* (Global), and *The Odd Couple: Together Again* (CBS/Paramount), etc.

His camera work is also recognized on the feature films *The Tortured* (Erica Christensen, Jesse Metcalfe, Bill Moseley), *Love Happens* (Jennifer Aniston, Aaron Eckhart), *Stargate:Continuum*, *The Ark of Truth*, *Cool Runnings* (John Candy), *Leaving Normal* (Christine Lahti), *Count a Lonely Cadence* (Martin Sheen, Charlie Sheen, Laurence Fishburne), *We're No Angels* (Robert DeNiro, Sean Penn), *Immediate Family* (Glenn Close, James Wood), and *Cousins* (Isabella Rossellini, Ted Danson), *Distant Thunder* (John Lithgow, Ralph Macchio), etc.

Peter and his wife Nicole Forest make their home on Westham Island near Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

### MENTOR PRODUCTION DESIGNER



#### MYRON HYRAK

Myron Hyrak has been working in Alberta's film community for over 20 years. He began working in the art department, scenic paint, set dec and props departments before assuming the positions of production designer and art director. He has worked as production designer for the past 15 years.

After graduating from the University of Alberta (BA – English) Myron worked several years as a freelance writer and photographer, speechwriter, and media consultant, before settling into film work.

Myron has worked on a wide variety of projects including features, MOWs, and series television. Clients include Paramount, Disney, CBC, NBC, Lifetime, as well as independent producers.

Recent credits include: TV series, *Blackstone*, *Caution May Contain Nuts*; Feature Films, *FUBAR II*, *The Pharmacist*, and *MOWS*, *High Noon*, and *Northern Lights*.

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### MENTOR EDITORS



#### LISA BINKLEY, C.C.E.

Award winning editor, Lisa Binkley began her career in post-production in 1989 after having studied theatre and film production at the University of British Columbia. She then graduated from the Media Resources Program at Capilano College. Since that time she has worked on various feature films, movies of the week and television series.

In 2004, her work was recognized when she received both a Gemini and a Leo Award for her editing of the 6 hour mini-series, "Human Cargo". This Canadian/South African co-production was directed by Brad Turner ("24") with an international cast starring Kate Nelligan and Nicholas Campbell. Over the years her list of television credits have included, MGM's critically acclaimed science fiction series, "The Outer Limits" and Showtime's "The L Word", "Cold Squad", "Touching Evil", "Call of the Wild" and "The Chris Isaak Show". Over the years, Lisa has had the opportunity to work with such directors as Marleen Gorris (Academy Award Winner – "Antonia's Line"), Moises Kaufman ("The Laramie Project"), Lynne Stopkewich ("Kissed"), and Academy Award Winner, Kimberly Pierce ("Boys Don't Cry"). Recently, Lisa edited the Carl Bessai feature film, "Normal" which starred Carrie-Anne Moss and Kevin Zegers and was nominated for Best Motion Picture by the 2009 Genie Awards. She has just completed work on the second season of the new Brent Butt television series for CTV called "Hiccups" which stars Nancy Robertson.

Lisa is a voting member of both the Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television and the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences and a member of the Canadian Cinema Editors Association.



#### ROGER MATTIUSSI

Roger Mattiussi began his career editing animated children's specials in Montreal and Toronto. After he moved to Toronto he worked with director/producer Sturla Gunnarsson and writer/producer Steve Lucas on "After The Axe," an Academy Award nominee for Best Feature Length Documentary.

He continued to edit on numerous TV series as a picture and sound editor before moving to Vancouver to work as the second unit director on the TV series, "MacGyver." After one year, he decided to follow his heart and moved to Australia for several years. But when the Australian Film and TV industry collapsed in the early 90s, he returned to Canada to continue his editing and second unit directing career.

Amidst occasional forays to Europe, where he edited the WW II biopic "Bonhoeffer" in Berlin and the Irish comedy "On The Nose" in Dublin, he edited TV series such as "DaVinci's Inquest" and "About A Girl."

In the past few years he has gone from editing "100 Days In The Jungle" which won the Gemini for Best TV Movie to working on "I, Robot," to the commercially successful Canadian teen road movie, "Going The Distance" to the independent cult favourite, "Fido," and most recently, "Trailer Park Boys: Countdown to Liquor Day" and "Afghan Luke".

### MENTOR AUDIO POST PRODUCTION

#### OREST SUSHKO

Orest Sushko is a feature film Re-recording Mixer based in Los Angeles.

A graduate of McMaster University, Orest pursued his vocation in Toronto combining a novel apprenticeship in both music recording and sound-for-picture disciplines – encompassing dialogue and sound effects editing, ADR and foley recording, music scoring, and mixing a vast array of television and films.

His work has garnered him 2 Emmy nominations, an Emmy award, 12 Gemini nominations, 3 Genie nominations, a Genie award, and a CAS (*Cinema Audio Society*) Award. He is also the recipient of an International Monitor award, Golden Sheaf award, and numerous MPSE accreditations. Orest has mixed several films for director David Cronenberg including *Crash*, *Spider*, *A History of Violence*, *Eastern Promises* and the upcoming film *A Dangerous Method*.

Part of the Banff 2010 Mountain Film Festival jury, Orest also regularly serves as guest audio faculty at The Banff Centre.

### GUEST SPEAKER

To be confirmed

#### JOHN DIPPONG, Telefilm Canada

John Dippong is the Interim Regional Director, Business Development for the Western Region. John joined Telefilm Canada in 1997 after having been involved in feature film production, film festival organization and programming. He has taken on roles of increasing responsibility since joining Telefilm, including Regional Feature Film Executive where he was responsible for the Western Region's development and production decisions for the past 12 years. In his current role, John is responsible for identifying and implementing regional strategies, partnerships and special initiatives which respond to Telefilm Canada's business development objectives to build a vibrant audio-visual industry in Western Canada.

At WIDC, John Dippong will touch on the producer / writer / director relationship, the contractual framework people need to have in place to apply (options, writer, and producer agreements), and what Telefilm's process is for making decisions in development and production including what strong applications look like, common mistakes Telefilm sees people repeating, and what the production landscape looks like these days.