

WIDC 2012 PERSONNEL BIOGRAPHIES

PPPM Mentors & Guests

MENTOR DIRECTOR



Donna Deitch

Donna Deitch segued from award winning documentary filmmaker to Producing and Directing 'Desert Hearts', the landmark hit of the 1986 Sundance, Telluride and Toronto Film Festivals. She sold the film to The Samuel Goldwyn Company.

Shortly after seeing the film, Oprah Winfrey hired her to direct the ABC Emmy nominated 4 hour mini series 'The Women of Brewster Place'.

She has directed movies for cable including HBO's 'Prison Stories, Women on the Inside' and Showtime's 'Devil's Arithmetic' starring Kirsten Dunst and Brittany Murphy for which she won an Emmy for her direction.

Deitch also directed four pilots three of which were picked up for series including 'Second Noah'. She has directed the best of one hour television drama including numerous episodes of Gray's Anatomy, Private Practice, NYPD Blue, ER, Law and Order: SVU, Heroes, Crossing Jordan, Murder One, Army Wives, EZ Streets, and others.

Deitch occasionally goes back to her documentary roots as she did with 'Angel On My Shoulder' about her best friend actress Gwen Welles' (Nashville) experience with dying which won the Gold Hugo at The Chicago Film Festival.

She is currently working on putting together financing for the film adaptation of the book: 'Strange Piece of Paradise,' a true crime memoir by Terri Jentz and the WW11 thriller 'The Catcher' from the book 'Stella' by Peter Wyden.

Ms Deitch is a member of the DGA, DGC.
Visit: www.donnadeitch.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 Glitter Dome*. 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 AMPA 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



ROGER VERNON, C.S.C.

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.

MICHAEL BALFRY, C.S.C.

Michael Balfry, a Canadian Society of Cinematographers (CSC) Award recipient & Gemini nominee, brings over 25 years of experience to the motion picture & television industry. Michael's international experience has seen him travel throughout North America, Europe & Asia capturing images with stunning results. Based in Vancouver, Michael has helmed the critically acclaimed TV series "The Dead Zone" for 3 seasons. More recently he completed principal photography on "Christmas in Canaan", a Hallmark movie which garnered that network highest ratings. Presently Michael is preparing to start the third season of "The Haunting Hour" for which he has been nominated for an American Society of Cinematographers (ASC) Award.



PAUL MITCHNICK, C.S.C.

Paul has been involved in filmmaking and photography since high school. While at York University, in the film program, he worked as a PA on Ivan Reitman's 'Cannibal Girls' and was drawn to the camera department. For 10 years Paul worked as a camera assistant travelling all over the world on dramas, documentaries and commercials.

Paul liked the travel in documentary work but was drawn to narrative filmmaking. Story telling with pictures. How the interpretation of the narrative could be influenced by cinematography. Making the story better. Helping the director's vision come to life.

Paul has had the fortune to work as a Camera Operator and 2nd Unit Director of Photography for many international DPs. Chris Menges, Peter Pau, John Seale, and John Bailey to name a few. He has also worked for many not so famous, equally gifted, directors of photography. This background coupled with a never ending curiosity have influenced his work.

Most recently Paul has been the Director of Photography on award winning Canadian Independent Features;(such as Fetching Cody and Complexity.) His Movies of the Week have ranged from comedies to westerns to suspense and drama. Paul has the distinction of shooting the first feature film to come out of Saudi Arabia. That project took him to both Dubai and India.

Currently a show of his black and white photographs is on display in Vancouver at the Twisted Fork Bistro.

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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.

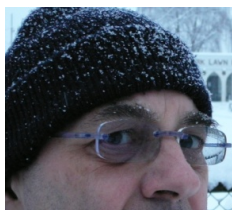
Recent credits include: TV series, Blackstone, Caution May Contain Nuts; Feature Films, FUBAR II, The Pharmacist, and MOWS, High Noon, and Northern Lights.

MENTOR EDITORS



STEIN MYHRSTAD

Stein is a Vancouver-based editor with over twenty years experience in the film and television industry. He has won two Leo Awards for Best Editing in a dramatic series and collaborated with such companies as ABC, NBC, Columbia Pictures, Fox, Hallmark, MGM, Muse Entertainment, Omni Film, Showtime, Sugar Entertainment, Syfy, and Warner Brothers. He has not only demonstrated his ability to tell a good story within the confines of the hectic schedules but also managed to garner the respect of his peers and mentors along the way. His experience spans not only genres of comedy, action, suspense and drama but has also provided him with the opportunity to travel as far away as New Zealand (ADRIFT), South Africa (CRUSOE), Italy and London (where he was directly involved with software engineers to give input to the Lightworks editing system). Stein's experience as a director of episodic television has enabled him to be more sympathetic to the difficulties that directors face on a daily basis and eager to find solutions to extract the best possible cut from the raw footage. Born in Norway, he loves to ride motorcycles, paraglide, ski, and travel. He plays the guitar and writes music.



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



GWENDOLYN WHITTLE

Sound Editor, Re-Recording Mixer, Supervising Sound Editor, ADR Supervisor, Supervising ADR Editor

Gwendolyn Yates Whittle is a force to be recommended with in the field of Sound editing and design. She recently was nominated for "Tron: Legacy" and last year was honored with an additional Academy Award for her outstanding work on "Avatar" with James Cameron. Gwendolyn had been nominated for numerous additional awards as well as ten nominations and four wins with the Motion Pictures Sound Editors' Guild. Some of her additional credits include The Curious Case of Benjamin Button, Iron Man, Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull, Lions for Lambs, Zodiac, Munich, Minority Report, A.I. Artificial Intelligence, Fight Club, Star Wars: Episode I - The Phantom Menace, Saving Private Ryan, and Titanic to name but a few and has worked with some of the most iconic filmmakers in the industry James Cameron, David Fincher, Steven Spielberg, Robert Redford, Barry Levinson, Ang Lee, Guillermo del Toro, and George Lucas.

GUEST SPEAKER

To be confirmed

Telefilm Canada