

CREATIVE WOMEN WORKSHOPS ASSOCIATION (CWWA)

Board of Directors



CAROL WHITEMAN
President & CEO / WIDC Producer

A two-time Governor General's Award-nominee and screen industry award-winner for promoting women's equality in Canada, Carol is a co-creator of internationally respected Women In the Director's Chair program (WIDC). Facilitating workshop sessions, providing personal coaching, publishing the annual WIDC newsletter and administering the WIDC awards and fellowships, Carol has helped advance the careers of hundreds of women screen directors, as well as actors and technicians across Canada and internationally. A founding member, President and CEO of Creative Women Workshops Association (CWWA), the non-profit organization that presents WIDC in partnership with The Banff Centre and ACTRA., she has produced over 130 short films and mentored hundreds of filmmakers through WIDC since its inception in 1997.

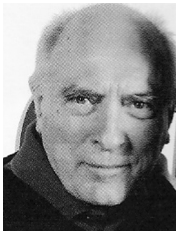
Carol holds a BFA with Honours from York University's Theatre Performance program, is a graduate of the Alliance Atlantis Banff Television Executive Program and is currently undertaking her doctorate at Simon Fraser University in Transformational Change in Education. She serves on seven Industry committees and advisory boards, and is particularly proud to be serving on the BC Screen-based Media Industry Human Resources Project, a first ever effort to bring together the three media sectors of Film & TV, Animation & Visual Effects and Games, to develop a strategy towards a sustainable and more integrated screen-based media industry in the province. She is also a consultant for professional development and advanced training in the Industry, a moderator, and through CWWA has produced the annual Montreal-based Telefilm Canada Feature It! Workshop since 2007, an Official Languages Program initiative designed to advance mid-career Anglophone producers and writers and their feature film projects.

www.creativewomenworkshops.com



KATIE TALLO
Vice-President

Katie is a graduate of Carleton University and Algonquin College in Ottawa, Ontario. She holds a BA in Film and English and a Diploma in Television Broadcasting. Katie honed her skills by attending a number of directing and writing master classes before being invited to participate in the prestigious Women in the Director's Chair Workshop in 1997. In her first five years in business, Katie wrote, produced and directed more than thirty-five half-hours of network television. Honoured as Ottawa's best director for her debut short film, Katie won support from The Canada Council, The Ontario Arts Council, CTV's Fellowship Program and Telefilm Canada. She also won several national production competitions for her innovative program ideas. In 2000, Katie wrote and directed two dramatic television series and a movie. By 2002, her first feature film was screening at festivals across the country. The film, Posers, is still in international distribution. For over fifteen years, Katie ran her own production company, developing, financing and producing innumerable projects. Moving into the freelance market in 2004, she has established a solid reputation for herself as a creative writer and director. Through her own company, Tallovision, Katie is busy traveling across the country offering her creative expertise to corporate and government clients and to the on-going documentary television series "Truth, Duty, Valour" and "Courage in Red". She currently lives and works in Ottawa with her husband and daughter.



BRIAN GROMOFF
Secretary / Treasurer & ACTRA Representative to the Board

Brian Gromoff is an ACTRA National Councilor and Past President of ACTRA Calgary, as well as Past President and former Treasurer of ACTRA National. Brian has been ACTRA's Liaison to The WIDC Workshop since its inception in 1996/97. As Treasurer of Creative Women Workshops Association, Brian has provided guidance on overall programming and budgeting along with participant and faculty adjudications. Brian is also a respected actor based in Calgary, Alberta with numerous film and theatre roles to his credit. In 2002 he was nominated to the Order of the University of Calgary for his outstanding contribution to the university and the community at large as he successfully headed U of C's Standardized Medical Patient Testing Program for over a decade.

CREATIVE WOMEN WORKSHOPS ASSOCIATION (CWWA)

Board of Directors



TAMMY BENTZ
Board Director & Signing Officer

Over the past several years, Tammy has written and directed numerous short films, including the award winning CHOMP that has been featured at various film festivals throughout Canada and the U.S. She's also directed The NEW MUM FITNESS Video as well as directed the dramatic portion of the Tommy Longboat Episode for Annie Frazier Henry's APTN Series, CHIEFS AND CHAMPIONS. Most recently, Tammy has associate produced and directed B Roll for segment profiles with Moore Media for *Business Television*. While her half hour documentaries PASSION HUNTER: SAYING YES and PASSION HUNTER: IMPULSE have screened at the Whistler Film Festival, The Female Eye Film Festival in Toronto and the Banff Summer Arts Festival, Tammy has also directed final projects for Capilano University's Full Time Acting Program which screened at Pacific Cinematique last year. Presently, she is in development for a one hour documentary about the plight of religious women in the catholic church.

Tammy comes to directing from an acting and writing background as well as working as Script Supervisor in Vancouver's film industry. As a Graduate from the Vancouver Playhouse Acting School with a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Alberta, Tammy has performed in the majority of theatres across Western Canada. She was Co-Founder and Co-Artistic Director of the internationally award winning *full figure theatre company*, writing and performing the troupes highly acclaimed comedies --WAY TOO BLONDE, THE "F" WORD (CAN FEMINISM BE FUNNY?) and WUMPA...AN ADVENTURE--all over the world. In addition to directing for *full figure*, she's also directed for Green Thumb Theatre and Theatre Under The Gun.

Tammy continues to direct & teach for the Vancouver Film School as well as BCIT and is a member of the CWWA Board of Directors.



MARY BISSELL
Board Director

From her beginnings as the director of *A Bog in My Backyard*, an environmental documentary produced in association with CBC Rough Cuts, Bissell has built a strong portfolio of factual programming, bringing style and wit to her production, directing, and on-screen hosting.

Her most recent documentary is a funny, heartfelt, and thought-provoking account of how a small, First Nations town went cold turkey and gave up sugar and junk food for a year. Described as *Supersize Me* meets *Northern Exposure*, *My Big Fat Diet* aired on CBC Newsworld in March 2008 and was recommended as a Critics Choice in The Globe and Mail. It won the Silver Chris Award at the Columbus International Film and Video Festival and screened at the American Indian Film Festival. Her previous documentary, *Naked*, premiered at the Festival des Films du Monde in Montreal, and is the most watched documentary ever to air on CBC Newsworld's *The Lens*.

Bissell created the 13-part series *Healing with Animals* that she co-produced with partner, Christian Bruyere, for Discovery Health Channel Canada, and which now airs around the world. This series brought Bissell many accolades including a bronze plaque from the Columbus International Film Festival and three Leo Awards for "Best Information Series," "Best Director, Information Series," and "Best Screenwriter, Information Series." She also co-produced the series *Beyond Invention* that is now airing on Discovery Science Channel in the US.

From 2003 to 2008, Bissell was co-host of Knowledge Network's *The Leading Edge*, where she earned her chops as a filmmaker by directing, hosting, and writing over fifty short documentaries. This series took her to Africa where she directed and hosted *The Gambia: Communities in Action*, a documentary which picked up a Bronze Plaque from the Columbus International Film and Video Festival; and earned this recognition from the esteemed Stephen Lewis, former UN Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa: "...the film documentary constitutes a startling amalgam of intelligence, insight, creativity and what can only be called unabashed enthusiasm.... I don't quite know how the film-maker pulled it off. I only know that it's an astonishing achievement."

In 2006, Bissell produced three short documentaries for CBC News: Sunday, including the popular *Grease*; and, with partner Christian Bruyere, produced and directed a one-hour documentary about child survivors of the tsunami in north-eastern Sri Lanka that was short-listed for the prestigious Deborah Fletcher Award for excellence in filmmaking on international development. In 2007 she did a guest stint as national columnist for *Vancouver Living*, where she produced and hosted a series of segments entitled *How Not To Have a Bad Hair Day*.

Bissell has a B.A. from the University of British Columbia and an M.A. in Graduate Liberal Studies from Simon Fraser University. She is a graduate of the 2009 Women in the Director's Chair workshop under the mentorship of Kari Skogland, and is a board member of Women in Film & Television Vancouver and of the Creative Women Workshops Association.

CREATIVE WOMEN WORKSHOPS ASSOCIATION (CWWA)

Board of Directors



CAROLE DUCHARME
Board Director

Carole Ducharme is an award-winning writer, director, producer and the founder of Witness Productions Inc. based in Vancouver, a production company dedicated to creating innovative films and television programs in English and in French.

Carole was born in Montreal and graduated from the University of Montreal's Law School. She started her producing career in Paris, France, where she co-produced Michel Brault's *Mon Amie Max* with Genevieve Bujold. After returning to Canada to reside in Vancouver, Carole associate produced the animated television series *Cybersix* broadcast on Teletoon and winner of the Leo award for Best Animated Series. She then wrote and directed the documentary *The Neighborhood Kids*, winner of a Blizzard Award. She also co-wrote, co-directed and associate produced the documentary *Man-Made Women*, which premiered at Hot Docs in Toronto. Carole produced the French version of the hockey docu-reality series *Bell Making the Cut - Le Repêchage Bell*, broadcast on RDS and CBC. She story produced and directed the second season of *Making The Cut – Last Man Standing*, broadcast on Global. Carole also directed the weight loss docu-reality series *X-Weighted*, broadcast on Slice. She was the Series Producer on *Smart Sex Talk* and *The Afterlife with Suzane Northrop*, both 10 half-hour multi-camera studio series for OUTtv and HERE! (USA).

Carole wrote, directed and produced three short films. The comedy *Ben Voyons Camille!*, produced with the support of Telefilm, Canadian Heritage, Radio-Canada, the NFB and MFS, won the Best Short Film Award at the Female Eye Film Festival in Toronto. The comedy *Straight From the Suburbs* won the Nell Shipman Production Excellence Award for Best Short Film and was invited to more than 40 international film festivals. It has been broadcast in Canada, the USA and Australia and is being distributed on DVD in Europe.

Carole has written the acclaimed feature script *The Women of My Life*, with the assistance of Telefilm, BC Film, HGF, Movie Central, and NSI Features First. *The Women of My Life* was invited to the 2007 French Production Forum in Namur, Belgium, and was a finalist at the Moonance International 2006 Screenplay Competition (Hollywood). Carole is currently assembling production financing for this feature. Additionally, Carole is writing the feature comedy *Le Donneur*, with the assistance of Telefilm Canada, and developing the dramedy television series *Pourquoi Vancouver?* for the SRC.

Carole Ducharme is a graduate of the Women in the Director's Chair workshop and of the NSI Features First program. She is the Treasurer of the French Directors Outside of Quebec Association and a board member of Women in Film & Television Vancouver and of the Creative Women Workshop Association.



JINDER OUJLA CHALMERS
Board Director

Prior to her film career, Jinder studied and graduated from BCIT, in Broadcast Journalism. Her ten years in Broadcasting included on air reporting stints with Global, CBC, and CKVU in regional and national news. She also spent several years as a news reporter and traffic reporter in radio at CFUN, CHNL and CISL radio.

Jinder has spent the last 12 years in the film and television industry. She first studied Screenwriting and Film at Ryerson Polytechnical University in Toronto. She then moved to Vancouver and mentored with Alan Difiore from The Vancouver Film School and head writer for DAVINCI'S INQUEST. She stepped out of learning mode and joined forces with Dusmar Productions and wrote, co-produced and directed numerous documentaries, corporate and educational videos. Somewhere in there she also found the time to research and write an East Indian cookbook. Through her experience with Dusmar, Jinder decided to try it out on her own and formed her own little production company, Inner Vision Productions. With Inner Vision Jinder has produced, written and directed two national documentaries, COLOUR BLIND for the NFB and GOING BEYOND THE PAIN for Vision TV.

In 1999, Jinder was the first recipient of the BC Film's Episodic Writing for Television Grant, which took her to TOUCHED BY AN ANGEL where she worked and co-wrote a television series pilot with Co- Executive Producer, RJ Colleary.

Jinder then in 2000-2001 joined forces once again with ABC's Emmy Award-winning Executive Producer and Show runner Michael Braverman, who over saw the editing on her new series, THE SEEKER. That association led her to doing a directing mentorship on Fox Family's series, HIGHER GROUND.

In 2001, Jinder once again took flight and landed in Los Angeles, only this time she was the honoured recipient of a mentorship placement with eight-time Emmy Award-winning director, James Burrows whom she shadowed on two episodes of NBC's hit comedy series, WILL & GRACE.

Jinder is a recipient of the 2006 WIDC BANFF Fellowship. While at the festival she earned a development deal with APTN for her MOW project, CODE OF SILENCE. Her feature film ELVIS AND MRS SINGH has received Telefilm Canada development funding and she is the co-creator of the Global/ NBC series, COMBAT HOSPITAL. She is also in development on a cooking series for PBS called INCREDIBLE TASTE OF INDIA.

CREATIVE WOMEN WORKSHOPS ASSOCIATION (CWWA)

Board of Directors



RITA SHELTON DEVERELL. C.M., Ed.D.
Board Director

Rita is a producer/director, journalist, professor, and a theatre artist. In the summer of 2005 Deverell returned to the theatre. She's written and performed three one-woman shows, *Smoked Glass Ceiling*, *McCarthy and the Old Woman*, and *Big Ease, Big Sleaze*. She is the producer / director of a series of TV dramas, 3 x 1 hours, *Solo Flight: International*, broadcast on OMNI in 2007 and *Solo Flight: West*, 3 x 1 hours, broadcast on SCN and APTN in 2007, and a drama short, "*Tipping Point*" for Bravo!Fact. 2009 saw a 1-hour docu-drama "*Not a Drop*" for OMNI. Much honoured for her work in television, among Rita's awards are two Geminis, MacLean's Honour Roll of Outstanding Canadians, and the Black Achievement Award.

Rita writes monthly opinion columns for the *Toronto SUN* and has been widely published on diversity issues in media. She was Director of News and Current Affairs for APTN, the world's first Aboriginal Peoples Television Network from 2002-05. While at APTN Deverell used her recognized team building and daily show running skills to mentor her Aboriginal successor. She is a founder of Vision TV and was its Head of Production and most visible face for 14 years.

Deverell headed the School of Journalism at the University of Regina, has taught at Ryerson University, was the first CanWest Global Fellow in 2007 at the Faculty of Information and Media Studies of the University of Western Ontario, and in 2008 Storyteller-in-Residence at Centennial College's Centre for Creative Communication. She serves on seven voluntary boards of directors and advisory committees including the Ontario College of Art and Design and Creative Women's Workshops Association. Deverell holds a B.A. in Philosophy, a M.A. in the History of Religions, and a Doctor of Education degree in Curriculum. She is a member of the Canadian Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame and the Order of Canada.

From 2009-12 Rita is honoured to be the 12th. holder of "Nancy's Chair in Women's Studies" at Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax.

KERRY STAUFFER
Board Director & The Banff Centre Representative to the Board

Kerry Stauffer is the executive director of Film & Media at The Banff Centre. Under Stauffer's leadership, programming initiatives create opportunities in content creation for artists and filmmakers in digital film, media research, music recording, and CD residencies. Programming includes film and new media residency programs, creative training and workshops, as well as self-directed opportunities. Film & Media also produces the Banff Mountain Film and Book Festival.

Prior to joining the Banff Centre, Stauffer was the director of production and program competition for Achilles Media, where she led the respected Rockie Award competition. Through this work, Stauffer developed keen insight into the needs of television and what makes a film exceptional. She has also produced awards shows, executive produced an international congress of arts producers, and participated as an international juror and on international exchanges. Stauffer has also produced and edited national television specials for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, and produced, directed, and edited four seasons of the BRAVO Banff Masters series, an in-depth profile of producers, writers, and directors from around the world.

Stauffer holds an honours diploma from SAIT (Cinema, Television, Radio, and Stage) and is a graduate of Alliance Atlantis Banff Television Executive Program. She is also a member of National Training Advisory Council for Screen Based Training, and a board member of Creative Women Workshops.