

# WIDC 2012

## Director Participants



**MARIE BURKE**  
Edmonton, AB

Marie Burke's work as a filmmaker is informed by her experience in community activism and as a Native journalist. Marie began working as a print journalist in 1998 with the Aboriginal Multi Media Society of Alberta. One of the biggest influences in Marie's life comes from her work with AMMSA and it's publisher, Bert Crowfoot. She continues to collaborate with Bert on video projects related to the cultural and spiritual life of Indigenous people who live primarily in western Canada.

Marie spent almost 10 years working in northern British Columbia for Smithers Friendship Center, Wedzen Kwe Native Legal Aid Office, and as Regional Coordinator for the Northwest Aboriginal Health Council. She possesses a passion to help people along in their respective lives by actively listening to their issues at hand. It is this passion that she carries with her into filmmaking. Marie wrote and directed her early work in video during her time with A-Channel, Edmonton. She wrote for *The Sharing Circle* and contributed to the news shows as an on air reporter from 1999 to 2003.

After leaving A-Channel, Marie began independently writing, directing and producing documentaries, including her first documentary with the National Film Board of Canada, *Spirit Doctors*, 2005. Marie's films include *The Quest of Buffalo Spirit*, a 4 part limited series for Omni Television, 2007; *The Significant One-Good Medicine*, for Alberta College of Art and Design, 2008, and a short film, *Vistas: Carrying Fire*, for the 2010 Olympics, part of a series produced by NFB and broadcast on APTN.

Most recently, Marie was a consultant for the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, providing information services in the areas of Aboriginal and community arts to individual artists, not-for-profit organizations on artistic development and grantsmanship.

Of Cree, Dene and French descent, Marie was born and raised in Edmonton, with original family roots in Philomena and Owl River, Alberta. Both of her parents have experience in the Residential School systems that have affected her in many of the same ways that it impacted Indigenous people across Canada. This experience leads her to practice many of the beliefs and ways of knowing of the Cree people in Alberta. Marie holds strong beliefs that Indigenous people are the storytellers who keep the fire of their way of life burning.



**LORI LOZINSKI**  
Vancouver, BC

Originally from Edmonton, Alberta, Lori Lozinski is based in Vancouver and is devoted to creating unconventional female centric content that offers alternative and amusing views of the world. Lori's recent producing credits include the 13-part documentary series *Eat St.* for The Food Network, the live action feature film *Sheltered Life* funded by Telefilm and BC Film starring Valerie Buhagiar, Ryan Robbins and newcomer Natasha Greenblatt that was invited to Perspective Canada – CANNES, the Atlantic Film Festival, Vancouver International Film Festival and Phoenix International Film Festival; and the 13-part animated series *PUCCA* for Studio B Productions and Jetix UK (a subsidiary of Walt Disney). In 2006, she Associate Produced the TV Movie *LUNA: Spirit of the Whale* for CTV, APTN and Peace Arch Entertainment starring Adam Beach, Graham Greene, Jason Priestley and Tantoo Cardinal that has screened at Sprockets Toronto International Film Festival for Children, Dreamspeakers Aboriginal Film Festival and won the audience award at the Mill Valley Film Festival. She additionally Associate Produced the feature length drama *The Score*, a musical adaptation of the award-winning play by Vancouver's Electric Company Theatre for CBC's Opening Night with screenings at the Vancouver International Film Festival 2005, INPUT-Taipei and nominations at the Banff World Television Festival and Gemini's.

Lori has also produced a number of short films including the 2011 Genie Award winning short musical drama *Savage* with director Lisa Jackson that successfully premiered at imagineNATIVE 2009 and has been invited to the 2010 Berlin International Film Festival, SXSW Film Festival and BFI London Film Festival and the 2011 New York Children's Film Festival to name a few. *Savage* also recently won the Golden Sheaf Award at the Yorkton Film Festival for best Multicultural program and won Leo awards for Best Actress and Best Editor. Additional shorts include *My Old Man* directed by Alex Levine, an adaptation from a Charles Bukowski poem that has screened at the Toronto International Film Festival, San Francisco Independent Film Festival and Leeds International Film Festival; *Dirty Dog*, directed by Trent Carlson in 2006 for the NFB and Bravo!Fact that was a part of the Art of Seduction series that won best mobile content at the 2007 Banff World Television Festival and *The Flying Lion*, directed by James Genn for Bravo!Fact that screened at the Vancouver International Film Festival, Whistler Film Festival and was included in the short film market at Clermont-Ferrand 2008.

Lori is in development on the feature film *Jenny Two Bears* (based on a short story by award winning novelist Joseph Boyden) with funding by The Harold Greenberg Fund, Corus Entertainment, Telefilm and BC Film, *Taking Shape* written by Shannon Masters, Martin Novotny a Canada/Mexico co-production written & directed by Marcelo Tobar; *Scavengers* written by Jason & Sue Bourque and *Saddlebags* that was recently part of the inaugural CFC Comedy Lab. She is also in development for the series *Sex With John* and Vancouver Special with APTN, Telefilm and BC Film. She is an alumnus of Norman Jewison's Canadian Film Centre and the 2009 Rotterdam Lab. Lori continues to develop feature length, television, and new media content through her company Violator Films Inc.



**CELIA MCBRIDE**  
Whitehorse, YK

Celia McBride is an award-winning artist whose work in theatre and film has reached audiences all across Canada as well as in Europe and the United States. Her play *Walk Right Up* was commissioned by the Stratford Festival of Canada in 2001 and premiered in the inaugural season of the Festival's Studio Theatre in 2002. She is currently the Co-Artistic Director of *Sour Brides* Theatre, a touring company based in her hometown of Whitehorse, Yukon, where she was born and spent her earliest years. *Sour Brides* successfully toured Celia's play *So Many Doors* across Canada in 2008-9 and Playwrights Canada Press published the play in 2010.

Mirabai Productions Inc. is the name of Celia's film production company, which is dedicated to the creation of films that inspire hope and advocate personal change. Currently, Mirabai is developing *Last Stop For Miles*, a feature film written and directed by McBride. With Mirabai Celia has written, directed, produced and starred in a number of short films, which have enjoyed screenings in festivals across North America. *Last Stop For Miles*, a short excerpt of the feature, written and produced by Celia and directed by her sister Clara, aired on Bravo in 2008 and can still be viewed in the archives of the NSI Online Film Festival.

As an extension of her artistic practice and her work as a Certified Yoga Instructor, Celia created *Inspiring Works* in 2008, a business dedicated to Higher Living. As a keynote speaker, workshop facilitator and Inspiring Coach, Celia encourages people to build self-esteem and cultivate courage in order to achieve their goals. This kind of creative practice also crosses over to Celia's work as a dramaturg for dance and performance artists as well as her work as a teacher of acting and writing for youth groups and emerging artists. *Inspiring Works!* Most recently, Celia was the Artistic Director of *One Word: The Yukon Experience*, a 30-minute multi-media video/live performance cultural segment that took place during the Victory Ceremonies at the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver (BC Place Stadium). Celia is a graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada and a member of the Playwrights Guild of Canada. Please visit her websites [www.celiamcbride.com](http://www.celiamcbride.com) and [www.laststopformiles.com](http://www.laststopformiles.com) for more information.

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**SARA MCINTYRE**  
Vancouver, BC

Sara McIntyre is a Storyfinder, Communicator and Filmmaker. Studying music in high school and theatre performance in college led to a brief acting career in Vancouver before the world behind the camera beckoned. Sara co-produced and cast *The Alibi Unplugged* Script Reading Series between 1999-2002, where Canadian screenwriters came together with professional actors for live workshops of new film and television scripts. This provided an immersive education in story structure, writing, and project development.

Sara worked as a Casting Assistant while taking business courses at Capilano College, and then served as Casting Director on a list of short- and long-form projects including the Leo Award-winning CTV series, "Point Blank" for Cullen Robertson Productions; and the multiple award-winning feature film, "The Delicate Art of Parking" for Anagram Pictures. Sara also devoted several years of service to Women in Film & Television Vancouver as an active member, board member and then as President from 2004-2005. Her most rewarding involvement was as the head coach for Flash Forward, a professional development intensive for the film industry. Here she learned about and taught personal coaching skills, which led to her own training and practice as a coach for creative professionals.

In 2004 Sara wrote and directed her first short film through the Director's Guild of Canada program, Crazy8s. "My Father's an Actor" won acting awards at the CanWest Comedy Fest Destination Funny Shorts competition, and the Cabbagetown Short Film & Video Festival. The experience confirmed Sara's commitment to directing, and she began studying with Scott Swan of Seacoast Theatre Studio with a focus on script preparation and working with actors. Sara has now joined Seacoast Theatre Studio as an instructor of film production, camera techniques for actors, and introduction to Canadian cinema. Sara combines her love of media production with her business savvy in the world of communications, marketing and new media as a Communications Specialist for clients in business, entertainment, non-profit, and government sectors. She takes a story-telling approach to all communications assignments and excels at integrating new and traditional media platforms to enhance the overall vitality of an organization.

Sara's inaugural feature film as Director is "Two Indians Talking", a contemporary comedic drama about two First Nations men preparing for a roadblock. The film earned the People's Choice Award, Most Popular Canadian Film at the 2010 Vancouver International Film Festival; Best Director and Best Feature Film awards from the 2011 Cowichan International Aboriginal Festival of Film and Art; Best Actor Award from the 2010 Winnipeg Aboriginal Film Festival; a Silver SpIFFY for Most Promising Filmmaker from the 2011 Spokane International Film Festival; and Leo Award nominations for acting and screenwriting. Sara's films are intelligent, thought-provoking, colourful, humorous and inspiring. She takes an audience deep into their beliefs to find out what's most valuable in life. She is a defender of beauty, humanity, sovereignty, laughter, and self-awareness. Sara fits the mold of the self-reflective Canadian filmmaker, but her stories are universal in their specificity - and always contain the spark of joy.



**ARLENE RIMER**  
Toronto, ON

Arlene Rimer is a producer, director and entertainment lawyer. Arlene was nominated best comedy at Yorkton for *The Quirk*, as producer. Arlene was a cyberpitch finalist at Banff for comedy, *Planet Morga*, and television and internet combination. Arlene has been Associate producer on *Singing the Bones*, a feature drama which premiered at the Montreal World Film Festival. She is producing the features *The Bloody Vial*, *Relative Contact* and *Hung Up on You*. Arlene has been executive producer on various features in development. She has produced several shorts including, *The Pencil Sharpener* (comedy) and *Dark Memories* (Drama). Arlene completed her short documentary, *Jo and the Motherfuckers*, (Producer, Director, Writer) in 2010. Her documentary, *The World According to Keith* (Producer, Director), premiered on Bravo! and was on 3 other Canadian networks and is currently in DVD sales around the world and has an International Sales Agent.

In 2010, Arlene was one of 5 producer/writer teams chosen for the WIFT development incubator with the script *Questionable Ally*. In 2011, Arlene and her company Reelstar Media Inc were chosen as 1 of 5 companies for the WIFT Executive Management Program, which was completed in February. Arlene has directed an episode for Business television, produced and directed a segment on discovery.ca, produced a music video and assisted many newcomers with their film and television projects as a producer mentor. Arlene has taken directing courses for her early stage career (Playhouse Vancouver), Directing courses at UBC, Action Cut Direct and others.

**KAREN SHOPSOWITZ**  
Toronto, ON

Karen Shopsowitz is an award winning film-maker, whose work has been screened nationally and internationally. Her most recent credit is "One Summer at Camp Winston," a one hour documentary about a camp for children with complex neurological disorders, which was produced in association with documentary. To date, the film has been screened at several festivals, including Yorkton, Flicks Film Festival (both in Saskatchewan), Duke City DocFest (Albuquerque, New Mexico), and the Eugene International Film Festival, where it received the award for "best family issue feature". Karen is the director, editor, co-writer and narrator of "My Father's Camera", about home movies and their unique place in history as told by Karen's father, an avid amateur film-maker and others like him. "My Father's Camera" was produced by the National Film Board of Canada, screened at several festivals, including HotDocs, the St John's International Women's Film Festival, the Montreal World Film Festival, the Atlanta Film and Video Festival, and the Brighton Jewish Film Festival. The film was nominated for a Gemini (for writing, with Bill Cameron), and received the prestigious Peabody Award.

Karen is also the series producer, director and co-editor of "Canada's War in Colour" (produced by YAP Films, and broadcast on the CBC and SRC). She was nominated for a Gemini for best direction in a documentary series for her work. As a director, editor, writer and occasional camera person, Karen has worked on dozens of other productions, ranging from stand-alone documentaries to documentary series for television, music videos, and fiction. Karen is developing several projects, including a bittersweet comedy about menopause and a dramedy series based on her first documentary, "My Grandparents Had a Hotel", which told the story of a Jewish resort in Muskoka, Ontario, run by her grandparents and captured on 16mm film by her father. This first film received a Gemini for best original music score for composers Danny Greenspoon and Victor Bateman, and has been screened at several festivals around the world. Karen spent the first part of her career as a freelance writer, working for a variety of publications. She holds a Bachelor of Journalism degree from Carleton University, Ottawa as well as a Master of Fine Arts in Film and Video from York University. Recently, she also completed a Certificate in Feature Film Writing from UCLA's writers' studio program. Over the years, Karen has taught (and continues to teach) film-making to young people ages 8 to 16, and has also guest lectured at York University and Ryerson University.

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### **ANNA SIKORSKI** Montreal, QC

Anna Sikorski is a producer, director and writer based in Montreal Quebec. As a writer and director, she is drawn to fiction and takes inspiration from the themes of adolescence, sexuality and femininity. She studied filmmaking at Concordia University's Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema, where she graduated with distinction in 2005.

Dealing with teenage desire and fantasy, her graduating film, *A Troublesome Desire*, won her the inaugural Technicolor award and was granted a blow-up to 35mm. The film went on to win best student short at the Rendez-vous du cinéma québécois in 2007. The award consisted of a travel grant to Bourges, France to participate as part of the Jury Jeune at the 11<sup>th</sup> International Screenwriters Festival in 2008.

Her most recent film, *Missing*, is an impressionistic piece about a young woman coming to terms with her own rape. Anna wrote, directed, produced and edited the 24-minute short. Her artistic vision shines through in this film. Focusing on atmosphere and using unexpected details, she restores dignity to a female narrative that too often centers on the sensational, political or dogmatic. Alexandra West, a reviewer from Fangirltastic.com, described the style of the film as "similar to Lars Von Tier or even Stanley Kubrick in that she facilitates a feeling of dread with a very assured hand. There are no gimmicks or tricks, only simple, chilling images that will stay with you long after it's over."

*Missing* received funding from SODEC, the Conseil des arts et lettres du Quebec, and services from the National Film Board. It has screened in festivals internationally and has been short listed for several awards.

Anna's producing credits include several animated shorts directed by Farzin Farzaneh, co-founder of Lachrymose Films inc. She is in the midst of producing and directing a second music video for local rock band "The Damn Truth." The video for their first single, *Fictional Affection*, was entirely shot on 11 minutes of black and white film stock. Her short screenplay *Walking Eddie* is one of seven competing scripts in this year's **Sprint for Your Short**. The story follows a pre-teen girl as she learns the art of wearing high-heels while walking the family dog. She is currently writing a feature script entitled "Vendeuse Niaiseuse" which can be roughly translated in English as "Silly Shop girl." Inspired by her experiences in the service industry, the story follows a young woman who allows herself to become trapped by her job at a local flower shop.

Anna's ambitions are to continue to write and direct her own projects while working commercially as a writer, director and producer.



### **ANA VALINE** Toronto, ON / Vancouver, BC

A graduate of the Canadian Film Centre's Directors' Lab and Short Dramatic Film Program, has spent most of her life in the arts. From theatre, visual arts and writing to filmmaking, her creative endeavors have been enhanced with varied life experiences including a welder's apprenticeship on the Alberta pipeline, training horses, tree planting and a brief stint doing phone sex. Ana's first independent short film, *alice & bastard*, garnered her a Best Director Golden Sheaf Award and the inaugural Emerging Filmmaker Award at the 2006 Yorkton Short Film & Video Festival, the People's Choice Award in Mas Sorrer, Spain, and numerous other film festival invitations and nominations. In addition to her independent work, Ana has worked in the music and event mediums in both TV and film. Her second and third self-produced films, a love poem and *Nightmare on Cambie Street*, have garnered considerable accolades and nominations. Ana's CFC short, *How Eunice Got Her Baby*, is still touring festivals and has brought home a Leo Award for Directions, Best Dramatic Short at the Female Eye Film Festival in Toronto and the 1<sup>st</sup> Place Legacy Award at the Vancouver Women In Film Festival. She is currently in development on her first feature film, *Sitting on the Edge of Marlene* for which she won the WIDC Feature Film Award.