

WIDC 2013

Director Participants



KATRINA BEATTY **Edmonton, AB**

At the age of 14, Katrina had the opportunity to intern on her first professional set. From that point on, she was hooked. A career in the film industry would be in her future. She sought further education and training to explore this craft of storytelling. She attended the University of Alberta, studying Film History, before moving to Montreal to complete a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Film Production at Concordia University's Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema. She graduated with distinction standing and was awarded the Richard Renaud Award for Outstanding Achievement in Film Production.

Katrina has written and directed several short films and music videos including *Cold*, *21 Floors*, *Nausea*, *The Dinner Table*, *The Meat Market*, and *Day to Day* on various formats from 16mm film to the RED EPIC.

In learning to produce her own films, Katrina developed skills she is able to transfer to other productions. When not acting as Producer for herself or others, whose stories she feels passionate about, she can be found working as an Assistant Director or an Editor.

Most notably, Katrina acted as the 1st Assistant Director on the feature film *Stitches* produced by Joe Media and nominated for Best Feature Film against Passchendaele at the 2009 Alberta Motion Picture Industry Association Awards, and more recently as the 2nd Assistant Director on Nicolette Saina's feature film *The Reporter*. Often, she will also act as the Assistant Director on films she produces including feature film *Money* and short film *Breathing Empty*.

As a picture editor, some credits include Gilbert Allan's feature film *Unfinished Business*, which obtained worldwide distribution in six languages, and the recently completed documentary for OMNI Television by Chester Sit, *The China Clipper*.

Outside of writing and directing, Katrina is most passionate about producing, and in 2010 she partnered with Lightframe Entertainment to produce their inaugural feature film *Money*. From that film, a partnership with Co-Producer Wes Miron was formed and they followed *Money* by collaborating on short film *Breathing Empty* and more recently on short film *Cold*.

Most recently Katrina completed the film *I Think I Do*. She partnered with Rocky Mountain Pictures and Panacea Entertainment to produce the made for television movie, starring Mia Kirshner (*The L Word, Exotica*) and Sara Canning (*The Vampire Diaries*). *I Think I Do* is set for broadcast on The W Network in Canada and Lifetime Network in the United States and will be distributed outside of North America by Daro Film Distribution.

When not occupied with the production of her own films, Katrina can be found in the Production department at the Film & Video Arts Society – AB (FAVA) where she works part time helping others make their films, or sitting on the board at Northern Light Theatre.

She is currently dividing her time between writing her first feature narrative, and completing post-production on her last short *Cold*.



CHRISTINE BUIJS **Toronto, ON**

Christine is a photographer and filmmaker who has always had a passion for visual arts, drama, and the weird and wonderful and showed interest in arts from a very young age. As a teenager, Christine was heavily involved in acting, theatre and playwriting and became enthralled with storytelling. She wrote and directed several plays while attending high school at Cawthra Park Secondary School in Mississauga. She was also involved with Tarragon Theatre and took part in several of their youth outreach programs as both a young actor and playwright.

She then went on to study Applied Photography at Sheridan College in Oakville, Ontario. While there she learned how to become a more visual storyteller and explored the vast creative options that photography offered. After graduation, she started out as an assistant to commercial photographers in Toronto, while continuing to develop her portfolio of fashion and portrait work. In the process, she photographed a number of talented artists and celebrities including director Catherine Hardwicke (*Twilight*, *Lords of Dogtown*, *Thirteen*), screen legend Karen Black, and Laura Vandervoort (*V*, *Smallville*) to name a few. Her images have been seen in multiple publications including the *Toronto Star* and the *National Post* and she began to develop a visual style.

Drawn back to the world of storytelling, she gradually incorporated her various interests and turned to filmmaking. While living in Vancouver, she began working on music video sets for artists including Theory of a Deadman, Social Code, Marianas Trench, and Faber Drive.

In 2007, she directed her first short film, *HIGHWAY*, which aired on CBC Television. She returned to Toronto in late 2007 and decided to focus on her own freelance work and development as an artist. In 2010 and 2011 she shot and directed several short film projects including *ACE OF HEARTS*, a short film noir, *QUEEN OF CLUBS*, a post-apocalyptic film, and *HARVEST*, a horror film. In spring 2012, she won the Best Picture Award at the Toronto 48-Hour Film Challenge for her short comedy film *BODYMAX*. In summer 2012 her work also screened at both the Female Eye Film Festival and Breakthroughs Film Festivals in Toronto. She routinely still camera assists and works as a freelance cinematographer to develop her eye, technical skills, and expose herself to various productions.

As an instructor and consultant, she has also helped hundreds learn photography and filmmaking skills, and has hosted filmmaking workshops for major companies including Corus Entertainment, Shaw Media, and FedEx.

She has several new short film projects in development, including an experimental film, drama, stop motion animation project and comedy, and is also developing her first feature film. She is committed to pushing herself to explore new horizons, new ideas and worlds, and also driven to raise awareness of the issues facing young female filmmakers today.

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NIKILA COLE Toronto, ON

Known for her wit, creativity and humour, **Nikki Cole** grew up in Vancouver and had a first career as a dancer / choreographer in London and New York. Her choreographies were critically acclaimed throughout Europe and North America until the realities of injuries and age forced her to reconsider her future in the field.

At the urgings of friends and colleagues, Nikki decided to look at film production as a possible next step. After graduating from NYU's School of Continuing Education's Film Intensive Program with an award-winning short drama, *IN A CLOSED ROOM* (NYU/SCE and Cincinnati Best Film), Nikki was shocked to discover that she'd been firmly bitten by the film bug. Living in New Haven, CT. as the mother of a 3 year old, her transition into film production wasn't easy.

Without any production companies around to intern with, Nikki changed her name to Nikila Cole and began making her own films. Her documentary "PAUL'S PIECE OF SKY" about the realities of a small contemporary dance company, followed the late Paul Hall and his troupe to the 6th International Conference for Blacks in Dance featuring Cynthia Gregory and other members of America's Black dance scene. It was broadcast on PBS Texas and Connecticut and screened in various film festivals. Her next film, "INTIMACIES", about Michael Kearns, Hollywood's first openly HIV+ actor won the Audience Vote for Best Documentary at the Palm Springs International Film Festival, screened internationally at film festivals and was broadcast by Bravo Canada. "WANDERINGS: A JOURNEY TO CONNECT" followed Nikila and her 11 yr. old daughter Sarah, around the globe exploring strange and unusual Jewish communities as well as their own relationship. Broadcast on Vision TV, Wnetwork, and Knowledge Network, it was nominated for a Leo Award in BC and the Yorkton Golden Sheaf Film Festival.

While raising her daughter in Vancouver and Toronto, Nikila also became a producer and director of many award-winning Lifestyle//Factual/docu/drama series. She was the founding producer of *BUY ME!*, a Gemini-nominated docu/reality real estate series for Whalley Abbey Productions and HGTV, *TAKE THIS HOUSE & SELL IT* (Upfront, Wnetwork), and *THE SHOPPING BAGS* (Gemini-nominated, Force Four. She was the Series Producer for the second season of *DEBBIE TRAVIS: FACELIFT* (Whalley Abbey, HGTV, Gemini-nominated) and produced the pilot *THE DAY I GREW UP* (AJE Productions) for TLC. She directed *AGENT VS. AGENT* for Proper TV and HGTV. (Gemini-nominated), *OMG!* for Stormway Productions, *THE UNSELLABLES* for Cinefix, and *FOUR WEDDINGS* for Proper Television and Slice.

Nikila directed the Gemini Award winning episode of *TILL DEBT DO US PART* (Frantic Films/Slice Network), several episodes of *WEDDING SOS* (Next Film/Slice Network), *PARTY MAMAS* (Barna Alper/Slice Network), *DR. IN THE HOUSE* (Alliance Atlantis/Slice Network) and *OUTLAW-IN-LAWS* (Media Headquarters/Slice). Nikila produced and directed the highly rated variety special *MAGIC MAN: HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS*, (Frogwater Productions/CBC), produced and directed the docu/drama series *YOU, ME & THE KIDS* (Leo Award, Force Four Productions/WTN) and directed the documentary parenting series *SPILLED MILK* for CBC.

In drama, she directed *MY FATHER, JOE*, a period piece shot in Montreal for BravoFACT, winning many awards including BEST FOREIGN FILM, Shamrock Film Festival, Minneapolis, BEST ART DIRECTION, Stepping Stone Film Festival, Bangalore, India, BEST FAMILY FILM: Honolulu Film Awards, Hawaii, SPECIAL JURY REMI AWARD, WorldFEST, Houston, and BEST DRAMATIC SHORT: daVinci Film Festival, Oregon. It was also In Selection in many festivals including The Cannes Independent Film Festival, 2011.



MELANIE JONES Vancouver, BC

An artist for over 15 years, Melanie M. Jones began her creative pursuits in the medium of sculpture, video and installation art while earning a BFA from Vancouver's Emily Carr University and an MFA from the University of Windsor. In 2006, she joined the Directing stream of the Langara College Film Arts program.

Her graduating film 'Manhood' has screened in numerous festivals in the United States and Canada and was nominated for Best Lead Actor at the Calgary Fringe Film Festival and Best Comedy at the Melbourne Independent Filmmakers Festival. Since graduating she has produced and directed a number of short films including 'Rest Stop' which premiered at the Victoria Film Festival in Australia, won Best Cinematography at the U of T Film Festival and is now distributed by Quat Media. It is currently showing on the 'En Route' in-flight entertainment system on Air Canada.

A proud participant of the 'fast film competition', Melanie has produced and directed numerous teams in the Bloodshots 48 Hour Horror Filmmaking Challenge, Whistler 72 Hour Filmmaker Showdown and Rain City 72 Hour Film Noir Competition. Her films in these competitions have garnered her numerous awards including winning Best Director for her 72-hour Noir film 'John Doe.'

With 10 short films under her belt, in genres ranging from comedy to drama and horror to documentary, Melanie is currently focused on writing her dramatic sci-fi feature film *IIDENT* while teaching Sculpture and New Media at the University of the Fraser Valley.

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ANNE KMETYKO Montreal, QC

Anne's strong passion for photography led her to Ryerson where she obtained her Bachelor's of Applied Arts in Photography.

Since graduating, she worked with several Montréal based publications including The Montréal Mirror, La Semaine and Québec Entreprises. She has collaborated with many newspapers, magazines, and books publishers. Her photographs have shown in local and international exhibitions including *The Montreal High Lights Festival* and the Unesco sponsored large format event entitled *I read Montreal*.

Over the next few years, Anne had the opportunity to work with and learn from seasoned international professionals on a variety of Canadian film and television projects, as well as larger American studio productions shot in Montréal. Anne has worked as script/continuity, production coordinator, locations scout, assistant director, production manager, producer, camera operator and cameraman.

After all these experiences, she felt ready to make the move to directing and in 2003 she directed her first short entitled **Mondo Karma**.

In 2007 she was accepted to **L'INIS** (L'Institut de l'Image et du Son, in Montréal) and completed the Directing for Television program. Since then, her work has covered short films, making of's, advertising, corporate, promotional and web projects.

She directed *The Cat in the Pan* in 2009. The short premiered at *The Montréal World Film Festival* and was nominated for 2 awards at the 2010 *Rendez-Vous du Cinéma Québécois*. The film was also shown at *Clermont-Ferrand* in France.

Recent projects include the very short short *In Between*. She is currently completing the production of the documentary *Le temps d'un rêve*.

Upcoming projects for 2013 include: *The Letter* written by and starring Kim Bubbs, the short is produced by **EMAFilms**. *Persistence of Memory*, a hybrid short combining live action/SFX/animation will feature the cast of Gregory Hlady, Mylène Dinh-Robic, and Laurence Dauphinais. And finally, *Dogworld*, a web documentary series that is in development.



LEA NAKONECHNY Montreal, QC

Lea Nakonechny was born and raised in Rush Lake, Saskatchewan. The child of a sculptor and a photographer, creativity is in her blood. Keenly interested in writing, drama and music from a young age, her passion for filmmaking surfaced in her teenage years when her father taught her the principles of manual photography and her mother introduced her to international art-house cinema of the 1960s.

Lea studied film at Concordia University and the University of Regina, winning several awards for her student work including Best Documentary at the 2003 RLVSS National Student Film Festival. Her first professional production, *Turn to the Wind* (2002), screened at 18 festivals on four continents. Her 53-minute documentary *Two Museums* (2005) won awards at two U.S. festivals including an Artistic Vision award at the 2006 Big Sky Documentary Film Festival. *Two Museums* went on to screen theatrically at 18 small-town Saskatchewan theatres during the provincial Centennial, and was acquired for broadcast on national television in Canada and in Spain. Her most recent project, the 17-minute drama *Edge of the Desert*, premiered at the 2009 Toronto International Film Festival and has screened at 12 other festivals to date, including Santa Cruz (USA), Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (Spain), and Libertas Dubrovnik (Croatia).

Lea's point of view as a young, prairie-raised woman director is unique and gives her work a distinctive flavour, often featuring complex female characters. Her films to date have focused on themes of identity and place, using landscape as an important element. Critics called her first major directorial effort *Two Museums* "a timeless film, a continuation of a poignant story that is older than the province [of Saskatchewan] itself." (Nick Miliokas, Regina Leader Post) and "maybe the most beautiful meditation on *stuff* I have ever seen" (Kyeann Sayer, Treehugger.com). Her forthcoming films will share these concerns, with added emphasis on drama and relationships.

Most recently, Lea has been concentrating on her screenwriting craft under the guidance of mentor Jefferson Lewis (*French Immersion, Emotional Arithmetic*) with funding from Quebec's SODEC. Her screenplay *Ravenscrag Road* was among the 8 semi-finalists in the Feature category of the highly competitive 2011 Slamdance Screenplay competition, a "Second Rounder" in the Austin Film Festival Screenplay Competition (top 10% of over 6500 submissions) and received an honourable mention in the Praxis Centre for Screenwriting contest. Her next script, *Honey*, received funding from SODEC's Jeunes Créateurs; the treatment was written during a Wallace Stegner residency in the town of Eastend, Saskatchewan.

Lea has done cinematography and production design for other directors and sporadically blogs about her creative process and filmmaking in general at filmystic.blogspot.com. Lea's work has received funding from the Canada Council for the Arts, la SODEC, the Conseil des arts et lettres du Québec, the National Film Board of Canada, the Saskatchewan Arts Board, SaskFilm, Screen Femmes and the Saskatchewan Filmpool. Lea currently lives in Montreal with her producer/husband Simon, where they are working on getting *Ravenscrag Road* into production.

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JILL RILEY Toronto, ON

Jill first fell in love with film as an actor. While at the University of Winnipeg, Jill was cast in "True Confections" - the first fictional outing for Oscar nominated documentary director Gail Singer. This required Jill to take a year off her studies during which time she was the Teaching Assistant for the 1st year acting classes at U of W. It was here - working with young actors on their scenes for class - that Jill first had an inkling of her desire to direct. Upon graduation, Jill worked as a Winnipeg actor in theatre and film.

When Jill moved to Toronto, she worked mostly in commercials - offering little artistic challenges. Even with some small parts in film and television Jill grew restless. Her friend, Bill Phillips, approached Jill to produce his independent short film, "Milkman". Jill happily accepted the job, and along with a steep learning curve, she quickly became enamored with the behind the scenes aspects of film production. Suddenly Jill was doing a job that required organization, leadership and problem-solving capabilities - and she excelled at it.

Jill went on to produce two more short films (both directed by Mark Wihak): "Ecstasy" (TIFF '99) and the 2000 NSI Drama Prize short film "autoerotica". The NSI Drama Prize offered Jill her first official training as a producer and the chance to connect with some other emerging filmmakers from across the country. Simultaneously, Jill was the Assistant to executive producer, Jon Slan. Apart from her administration duties, Jill 's job was to read and do "coverage" on unsolicited scripts for Mr. Slan's perusal. After reading many mediocre scripts Jill became inspired to create her own work on film.

Jill then collaborated with Monique Marcker on "With Wings" which went on to win an audience choice award at Winnipeg's Sugar & Splice Film Festival. It was also broadcast on CBC's Canadian Reflections. Jill followed it up with an image and sound collage film based on Kathleen Olmstead's poem, "The hard facts of a rock n roll crush" which was a festival hit, screening from Calgary to Brooklyn, from Newfoundland to Oregon.

Jill then upped the ante with her biggest short film to date: "The Princess of Selkirk Avenue", a period piece set in the early 1960s. Jill shot this film while pregnant with her (now 6 year-old) daughter, Ruby B. "Princess" garnered Jill the 2009 Toronto Filmmaker Award at the Female Eye Film Festival and was broadcast on CBC's Canadian Reflections.

Jill is itching to get back to making film and television. Currently in development: the shorts, "So You Think You Can Parent" and "Girl, You'll Be A Woman Soon"; the features "Cougars in Love" and "Zoë and Rose"; a television series drama tentatively titled "River Heights" and the documentary web series "A First Time For Everything".



KAREN X. TULCHINSKY Vancouver, BC

Karen X. Tulchinsky is an award-winning novelist, screenwriter and director. She directed a short film, **Ms. THING**, which has screened at 44 film festivals internationally, including San Francisco's prestigious Frameline Film Festival, Out on Screen Vancouver, Toronto Independent Film Festival and at festivals in Paris, New York City, Seattle, Las Vegas, Pittsburgh, Zurich, Barcelona, Hamburg, London, Sicily, Milan, Athens, Durban South Africa, Cork, Ireland and Mumbai. It won Audience Choice Award at Queer Fruits Australia.

She is the author of **THE FIVE BOOKS OF MOSES LAPINSKY**, a novel set in Toronto in the 1940's, which was a Toronto Book Award Finalist and winner of the **ONE BOOK ONE VANCOUVER Prize 2008**. Her first novel, LOVE RUINS EVERYTHING was named a Top Ten Favourite by San Francisco's Bay Area Reporter. Her collection of short fiction, IN HER NATURE, won the VanCity Book Prize, B.C.'s largest literary award.

She has written for television series, including ROBSON ARMS (CTV) and The GUARD (Global), and has been Story Editor, Writer and Director on documentary/lifestyle series, including KINK (Showcase), GLUTTON FOR PUNISHMENT (Food Network), Dussault Inc. (CityTV), THE OPENER (Food), WORLD's WEIRDEST RESTAURANTS (Food) and THE BACHELOR (CityTV). She has had five feature length screenplays in development with Telefilm and Harold Greenberg FUND. Her feature length screenplay I SHOT THE SHERIFF, to be directed by acclaimed Toronto director, Clement Virgo, is in development, a co-production of Screen Siren Pictures and Conquering Lion Productions.

Tulchinsky is a graduate of the Canadian Film Centre's Writer's Lab and Professional Screenwriting Programs. She wrote "Straight in the Face," which was produced by the CFC's Universal Studio's/Short Dramatic Film Program, and screened at numerous film festivals, including Toronto International Film Festival, London International Film Festival, Outfest LA, Montreal World Film Festival and Vancouver International Film Festival. It has been broadcast on Showcase TV.

The short film, she directed, "A Sign" screened at Vancouver's Out on Screen Film Festival. She is a graduate of NSI's Feature's First program and Praxis Story Editor Internship.

Ms. Thing Awards

Audience Choice Award, Queer Fruits Film Festival, Australia
Honourable Mention, Short Film Award, Out on Screen, Vancouver.

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