

WIDC 2013 PERSONNEL BIOGRAPHIES

PPPM Mentors & Guests



MENTOR DIRECTOR MANON BRIAND

A rare combination of intelligence and sensibility, director/scriptwriter Manon Briand began her career as a filmmaker in the early 1990s. After earning a degree at Concordia University, she completed her first medium-length film, *Les sauf-conduits*, which won the Jutra Prize for Best Newcomer at the 1991 Rendez-Vous du cinéma québécois and the prize for Best Canadian Short at the 1992 Toronto Film Festival, as well as high praise at numerous international film festivals.

This was followed by two shorts, *Croix de bois* (1992) and *Picoti Picota* (1995), which won, among other awards, the Alexander S. Scotti Foundation Prize at the Oberhausen International Short Film Festival in Germany. The next year she directed one of the segments of the omnibus film *Cosmos*, which premiered at the 1997 Directors' Fortnight in Cannes, where it took the Prix de la confédération des cinémas d'art & essai, and was selected to represent Canada at the Academy Awards in the category Best Foreign Language Film.

Her first feature fiction film, *2 Seconds*, which she also wrote, obtained three prizes at the 1998 Montréal World Film Festival: Best Director, Best First Film and Audience Award for Best Canadian Film. It also won the prize for Best Original Screenplay at the Namur Francophone Film Festival in Belgium. The film made a splash at the prestigious Sundance Festival, and earned Briand a place on *Variety's* list of Top New Directors to Watch For.

In 2001, Briand directed the television movie *Heart: The Marilyn Bell Story*, about a young Canadian woman's attempt to swim across Lake Ontario in the 1950s. She then returned to her home shore in Baie-Comeau for *Chaos and Desire (La Turbulence des fluides)*, which won the prize for Best Canadian Film at the 2002 Montréal World Film Festival, the 2003 Jutra Award for the film most successful outside Québec, the Grand Prix du Public at the Festival du cinéma en Abitibi-Témiscamingue and the Festival de Musique et Cinéma in Auxerre, France, where it also took the Grand Prize and the Film Exhibitors' Prize. The film was included on the Toronto International Film Festival's Canada Top Ten list for 2002.

Briand then went on to write the screenplays for two English-language features, *Out of Zen* and *Watch Me*, as well as a musical comedy, *La fille au revolver*, currently in preparation. *Liverpool*, for which she also wrote the screenplay, is her third feature film.



MENTOR ACTOR G. CHRISTIANNE HIRT SHAW

Christianne began her professional career in 1982, playing the role of Jill/Peggy opposite James Gardner, Colleen Dewhurst, 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 AMPIA 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

WIDC 2013 PERSONNEL BIOGRAPHIES

PPPM Mentors & Guests



MENTOR DIRECTOR 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.

MENTOR DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY C. KIM MILES C.S.C.

Director of Photography C. Kim Miles csc has enjoyed more than two decades' experience in the business of filmmaking. Beginning as a grip at the age of fifteen, he worked his way up through the various steps of the camera and lighting departments, beginning to direct photography on commercials for award-winning director Jerry McKenna in 1997.

Since then, Miles has photographed over forty long-form projects, forty commercials and music videos. His experience with the highly stylized world of advertising affords a different approach to his lighting. Adapting the photography of each picture to the story is of course paramount, and Miles has developed a growing reputation for giving each project a level of quality uncommon to the independent production while endowing each picture with a style unique unto itself. Working within the constraints of short shooting schedules and limited finances has allowed him to hone his creative skills to deliver consistently superior cinematography, on time and on budget.

Miles is currently enjoying the audience reception of his latest project, "Mortal Kombat: Legacy", in collaboration with director Kevin Tancharoen for Warner Brothers Premiere. The digital series spawned a viral Machinima/YouTube sensation in support of the release of the latest edition of the video game franchise. Shot with a uniquely theatrical aesthetic, "Kombat" has not only raised the bar for Miles' work, but also for digital series everywhere. With over fifty million views to date and counting, and an average 96% approval rating, the project has demonstrated the viability of a digital series as a modern delivery method. Complete episodes of the series are available for viewing in the [portfolio](#) section of this website.

Miles' 2010 collaboration with director Paul A. Kaufman, "Sins of the Mother", resulted in Lifetime Movie Network's second highest viewership numbers of all time, their highest African American audience in history, and the second-highest rated Lifetime Movie Network film of all time. Other recent projects include acclaimed CBC mini-series "Darwin's Brave New World", features "Blonde and Blonder" with Pamela Anderson and Denise Richards, "Odysseus and the Isle of the Mist" with Terry Ingram, "The French Guy" with director Ann Marie Fleming, for which Miles received a Leo Award nomination for Excellence in Cinematography, "Hank Williams First Nation" that premiered at the AFI Festival in 2005, "A Dennis the Menace Christmas" with director Ron Oliver for Warner Premiere with Academy Award winner Louise Fletcher, "Third Man Out", "Shock to the System", "On the Other Hand, Death" and "Ice Blues" for Regent Entertainment and "Wyvern", "Trial by Fire", "Termination Point", "Dark Storm" and "Not My Life" for CineTel Pictures. Miles' television movie credits include "Chasing Christmas" for ABC Family, "Stranger with my Face", "Criminal Intent", "Stranger in my Bed", "and "Fatal Reunion" among others for Lifetime Television. His television series credits include two seasons of "Alienated" for BrightLight Pictures and Pilot "Daingerfield" for Gold Star Productions. Miles' recent collaborators have included such noted directors as Kevin Tancharoen, Ron Oliver, Paul A. Kaufman, Bill Dear, Allan Kroeker, Bob Clark, Terry Ingram and David DeCoteau.

Miles is a member of the Canadian Society of Cinematographers and a Director of Photography with the International Cinematographers' Guild, IATSE Local 669.

When not on set, Miles enjoys time with his wife Joanna and daughter Merdeka near Vancouver, BC.

WIDC 2013 PERSONNEL BIOGRAPHIES

PPPM Mentors & Guests



MENTOR DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY PIETER STATHIS C.S.C.

Pieter Stathis is a professional cinematographer with 20 years of experience shooting feature films, television series, documentaries and commercials across North America, Europe, Asia, Africa and the South Pacific.

Pieter has taught cinematography courses at University of British Columbia, Capilano University and Douglas College and holds full membership in camera union IATSE 669 as Director of Photography. His love of cinematography comes from shooting in real locations with a hands-on approach to lighting, physical camerawork and on-going collaborations with directors.

Pieter's recent feature credits include the multi-award winning drama "Hit and Strum", the Cuban-Canadian co-production "3 Days in Havana", and the feature length documentary "Song For Mandela", filmed on location in Canada, England and South Africa.

Pieter has recently returned from location shooting in Cuba on the theatrical feature "3 Days in Havana" with Gil Bellows and Tony Pantages. The film is scheduled for release in 2013.

Travelling from the tropics to the tundra, Pieter is currently on location in Yellowknife, Canada shooting for the CBC series, "Arctic Air" with Adam Beach.



MENTOR 1ST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR DAVID MILLS

David is a Directors Guild of Canada 1st. Assistant Director. He has worked on M.O.W.'s, episodic television and Feature Films. He is proud to have worked on "Eve and the Firehorse" with Julia Kwan, her first feature film. For 8 years David represented DGC members from across Canada as their AD representative on the National Executive Board of the DGC. David also teaches and mentors film students at local film schools, is licensed by MPPIA to deliver the BC Film Orientation Course, and he recently returned to the University of Victoria to complete his Certificate in Adult and Continuing Education. David loves mentoring emerging filmmakers, and is proud to be a part of Canada's indigenous film industry. He is currently co-writing a screenplay he hopes to direct soon.

MENTOR PRODUCTION DESIGNER CATHY COWAN

Cathy is an Art Director living and working in Calgary. Her training in Interior Design, a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre, and a M.F.A. in Set and Costume Design set her in good stead to live an impoverished existence while trying to make a living in theatre. At the same time, she was also working part time as a draftsman for a successful interior design company in Halifax. A chance to assist as a draftsman for a couple of weeks on one of the first American movie shoots in Halifax changed all that.

Upon returning to Calgary and after 7 years at home with children, she pounced at the chance to work in film again. Starting as a draftsman on a couple of TV series shot in Calgary, and working up to Art Director for the Calgary MOW and feature film market, she has in the last several years also Production Designed for locally produced TV MOW and music video projects.

Her credits range from the TV series LONESOME DOVE, VIPER, HONEY I SHRUNK THE KIDS, IN COLD BLOOD (mini-series), TOM STONE, and SHOEBOX ZOO, to MOW projects THE RON CLARK STORY, the NORTH OF 60 movies, SELLING INNOCENCE, SURVIVING LOVE and AFTER THE HARVEST, and feature films such as RV, SPEAKING OF SEX, and KNOCKAROUND GUYS. She has art directed a music video for NICKELBACK (Photograph), and the PAUL BRANDT AND FRIENDS Christmas music special, and most recently worked on HELL ON WHEELS for AMC.

She is a returning I.A.T.S.E. member of the Calgary professional crew contingent for the WIDC program having enjoyed three previous sessions in 2002, 2003, and 2006 where she contributed as Mentor Production Designer. She looks forward to collectively stretching everyone's imagination (including her own) when it comes to the creatively challenging arena of these WIDC workshops (just breathe.....).

WIDC 2013 PERSONNEL BIOGRAPHIES

PPPM Mentors & Guests



MENTOR EDITOR DONA NOGA

After graduating from Ryerson University in Toronto in Media Arts, majoring in Film Production in 1990, Dona soon was hired as an assistant editor for various television series and Movie of the Week's. She also started cutting EPK's for a few of those shows. Her fourth year of assisting, she had an opportunity to cut two 1-hour documentaries for Discovery Channel called Ocean Quest for Survival. Soon afterwards she moved to Los Angeles and continued working as an assistant. This time she worked for Oscar-winning editors such as Petro Scalia, who was finishing, and she lent a helping hand on, the Big Hit, and Thom Noble who was finishing The Mask of Zorro. Petro also cut JFK, The Doors and Thom cut Thelma and Louise and Witness. In 1996 she was hired to cut Ninja Turtles, the Next Mutation and a year later The New Addams Family, which were both great and exhilarating experiences. She made her home in Vancouver for the next four-year working mostly for Shavick Entertainment. Shavick Entertainment was a bustling studio focused mostly on MOW's and TV series for Fox, Family, Lifetime Network, ABC Family. In 1998, she cut her first feature called Dangerous Attraction, which was nominated and won Leo Awards. In 2000, she cut a children's series called Screech Owls that was nominated for a DGC Award. In 2010, she cut, Dead Like Me, the pilot which was nominated for an Emmy and became a Cult hit. In 2002, she moved back to Toronto and worked on numerous shows that again were nominated for Emmy's like The Great Polar Bear Adventure, the Jane Show, nominated for DGC and Gemini Awards, and The Good Witch's Family, CEE Award. She has cut series, pilots, Mow's, and features, in a vast array of genres such as comedies, dark comedies, action comedies, tween shows, suspense thrillers, exotic thrillers and psychological dramas. Her latest show will be broadcast for Lifetime in December 2013 called Fir Crazy, a Christmas time love story.



MENTOR EDITOR CARMEN POLLARD

Vancouver-based film and television editor Carmen Pollard has been cutting and compositing since 1999. Her credits include everything from festival-circuit documentaries to multi-million dollar Hollywood blockbusters, screening internationally and airing throughout North America. Carmen has been nominated for a primetime Emmy and a Gemini. In 2009 she was awarded a Leo for best picture editing on Meghna Halder's feature documentary 'Dirt'.

A graduate from Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design, Carmen studied photography, film, video and animation. Her preoccupations include documentary storytelling, graphic design, photography and dance. Known for her insatiable attention to detail, her editing practice balances without compromise, an attention to narrative form and cinematic style.

In addition to her work in film and television, Carmen has helped mentor the next generation of filmmakers in teaching editing theory and technique to undergraduates at Emily Carr University of Art and Design.



MENTOR AUDIO POST PRODUCTION OREST SUSHKO

Orest Sushko is a feature film Re-recording Mixer currently based in Toronto. A graduate of McMaster University, Orest pursued his vocation 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 series, documentaries from *David Suzuki*, to *The North Face*, to *Great Big Sea*, as well as a broad genre of films.

He served as remote recording engineer on Toronto's CFNY Discovery Music Mobile mixing a variety of musical acts including *The Barenaked Ladies*, *James*, *Beautiful South*, and *Sarah McLachlan*, as well as numerous festival and concert events. Orest continued his work as a senior re-recording mixer with Alliance Atlantis Communications in Toronto. In 2005, he accepted an offer as a feature film mixer with Todd AO Studios in Los Angeles. He has mixed numerous films for director David Cronenberg including *Crash*, *Spider*, *A History of Violence*, *Eastern Promises*, *A Dangerous Method* and *Cosmopolis*. His work has garnered him two Emmy nominations, an Emmy award, twelve Gemini nominations, three Genie nominations, a Genie award, a CAS (Cinema Audio Society) award, International Monitor award, Golden Sheaf award, along with numerous MPSE accreditations. He regularly serves as guest audio faculty at the Banff Centre, and has conducted guest lectures at Humber College in Toronto for the Film & Media Production Programme.

WIDC 2013 PERSONNEL BIOGRAPHIES

PPPM Mentors & Guests



SIM INSTRUCTOR **Dr. CAROLYN MAMCHUR**

Carolyn Mamchur is a professor at Simon Fraser University in BC and the award-winning author of psychology texts, articles, poetry and children's books, including *INSIGHTS, A TEACHER'S GUIDE TO COGNITIVE TYPE THEORY AND LEARNING STYLE, THE POPCORN TREE* and *IN THE GARDEN*. She has written ten feature film scripts and a half-hour drama for CBC. Her script, *Sunnyside Canal*, is presently option by Stuart Margolin. She has a script, *Winter Rose*, in development with a past graduate of SIM – Elizabeth Becker. She is an editor/consultant for Telefilm Canada and has acted as editor on four scripts growing out of her workshops offered in Montreal in 2009, 2010. She is a popular guest speaker and presenter and has lectured and delivered a myriad of workshops in Europe, the Soviet Union, the Orient, the United States and Canada including a Vancouver's PRAXIS, Centre for Screenwriters. She earned a doctorate at the University of Florida where she studied with the founders of CAPT, Centre for Application of Psychological Type and with southern writer, Harry Crews. She did post doctorate work at the Jung Institute in Switzerland where she furthered her research and studies in the application of psychological type theory. As a writer and educator, she is presently focusing her interest in psychology and creative writing, particularly screen writing and the use of the archetype in creating authentic characters. She became certified as part of her latest Jungian studies to use a branding instrument which determines organizational and personal archetypes. She is incorporating that work into her ongoing, never ending book on character that better get done this year. Based on the success of her faculty wide program, Foundations of Academic Literacy, Carolyn has just created and taught a "first time ever" course, Foundations of Self Efficacy: Finding Voice and Place in Academia. She has been named a Teaching Fellow for her work in this area, and is now advisor to the Academic Vice President. In how to improve teaching and learning at Simon Fraser University. Her professional work is balanced by her love of gardening and she is busy weekends with her daughter and two dogs planting a three acre botanical garden in Bow, Washington. Her latest book, *CRAZY FOR TREES*, describing just how and why a woman in her fifties would find it irresistible to create a garden in the middle of a forest, is the subject of a series for television called *THE DOLPHINS* under consideration by Force Four Productions. She has just completed a trilogy, *MARIA KAT*, and has begun work on a second trilogy about the same character as an adult.



MENTOR STORY EDITOR **LINDA COFFEY**

Linda Coffey is one of the very few story editors in Canada to have worked successfully in every genre of film and television production. After three years as a strategic marketing consultant to the Faculty of Commerce at UBC, Linda spent the next eight years as the Executive Script Consultant in charge of all western-based drama development for Canada's national broadcaster, the CBC. Here she was responsible for the development and production of all projects from Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and BC, both series and movie projects which included: award winning series *THE ODYSSEY* and *NORTHWOOD*, and *MOW's LIAR LIAR*, and *LITTLE CRIMINALS*.

In 1995, Coffey moved to the Okanagan to have children and to again pursue her own writing, which included the award winning documentary *ON A STRING*, and she continued to story edit special projects. She was the lead story editor and writer on two seasons of the one-hour dramatic series *THESE ARMS OF MINE*. Her script, *SO YOUNG*, won a best actress Gemini by series lead Babz Chula in 2001. She has story edited and consulted on hundreds of hours of television and film projects including feature films *SIX FIGURES (2005)* *REAL WESTERN (2006)* *STRANGE LOVE (2008)*. Coffey has also written commissioned scripts for a number of television series. Coffey story edited the CBC movie *BLACK KNIGHT*, *WHITE WIDOW*, and was story editor and lead writer of the proposed follow up one hour dramatic series *JINNAH ON CRIME*. She was also commissioned to write the third *MOW* in this same franchise *THE FALL GUY*.

Coffey was creator, and Producer of the proposed half hour family series *STILL THERE CLARE* based on the novels by Yvonne Prinz (Raincoast Books 2004-2007) with Executive Producer Brightlight Pictures. She was also creator, and lead writer of the children's web series *UNIVERSE VILLAGE* a multi media based environmental series for Flourish Media. She was the story editor on the family series *ADVENTURES OF A COUNTRY VET* and the animated youth series *RAYMAN*. Coffey has a feature film *BY ANY OTHER NAME* in development, funded by her selection for a Screenwriting Assistance Award from Telefilm. She is co-creator and writer/producer of the one-hour dramatic series *R.E.M.* She is also creator and writer of the reality series *COMEDY COUNTDOWN*, the documentary film *MOVING THE LADDER*, and the upcoming feature film *BOOMERANGS*.

WIDC 2013 PERSONNEL BIOGRAPHIES
PPPM Mentors & Guests



WIDC PRODUCER / MENTOR
CAROL WHITEMAN
President & CEO, CWWA

A two-time Governor General's Award-nominee and multiple screen industry award-winner for mentoring and promoting women's equality in Canada, Carol is a co-creator of the internationally respected Women In the Director's Chair program (WIDC). Facilitating workshop sessions, providing personal coaching, publishing the 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 150 short films at 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.

Carol serves on seven Industry committees and advisory boards, and is particularly proud to be serving on the BC Screen-based Media Industry Sector Council Board, a first ever effort to bring together the three media sectors of Film & TV, Animation & Visual Effects and Digital Games, to implement a strategy towards a sustainable and more integrated screen-based media industry in the province. She has recently been appointed by the Council to Chair the Industry Education Institutions Advisory Committee, which is comprised of institutions that offer screen-based media education and training programs in British Columbia.

A consultant for professional development and advanced training in the Industry, a respected moderator and facilitator, Carol, through CWWA produced the Montreal-based Telefilm Canada Feature It! Workshop from 2007 to 2010, an Official Languages Program initiative designed to advance mid-career Anglophone producers and writers and their feature film projects. Alumni from this program have gone on to develop, write, produce and direct multiple successful feature films. www.creativewomenworkshops.com