

WIDC 2011

Director Participants



EVA COLMERS
Edmonton, AB

Eva Colmers is an independent filmmaker who has written, directed and produced a variety of award-winning short films including *LUZ* (2008), *End of the Rope* (2007), *Hand Sum* (2006), *Blink!* (2005) and *No Problem* (1998). For the NFB she has written and directed *The Enemy Within* (2003), based on her Father's experience as a POW; and just recently completed *The NFB Elder Project* (2010), a dvd collection of episodic stories about 7 different elderly people.

Her short films have been seen at many national and international festivals eg Los Angeles (USA), Goa (India), Regensburg (Germany), Malmö (Sweden), Johannesburg (S-Africa), Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), Halifax, Toronto, Calgary, Victoria (all in Canada) and other places. Her short films are praised as creative and innovative and she has received several awards for her accomplishments eg Golden Sheaf Award at Yorkton Short Film Festival, ZED Most Innovative Short Film Award (by CBC Television), Audience Choice Award at Global Visions Film Festival, Best of Alberta CSIF Award, Silver Bär Award at Festival der Nationen in Austria, Innovation Award at Festival de Films Avec Twist and more.

With a background in theatre, Eva has also created media installations and visual back grounds for theatre-, dance- and music performances eg Broken Spoke Theatre in Vancouver, Mile Zero Dance Company and St. Crispin's Chamber Ensemble in Edmonton.

Eva has received grants from different municipal, provincial and national funding agencies and has served on several non-profit arts boards, advisory committees and juries including the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, The Yorkton International Film Festival, The Edmonton International Film Festival, The Mosquer Festival.

She is a member of WIFT-A, DOC-AB, The Alberta Playwrights Network, EAC, amaas and FAVA, her local film and video coop.

Eva just completed her latest short film *The Weightless Traveller* and as hoping to work on her first feature project, soon.

Eva loves photography, printmaking, yoga, traveling and cooking.



SIOBHAN DEVINE
Vancouver, BC

Siobhan trained in theatre at the University of Ottawa and then did her MA in Drama at the University of Toronto. In Toronto, working in the communications department at a shelter for runaway kids, Covenant House Toronto, Siobhan became involved in making videos about the kids and the workers. This work ignited a passion for the power of story telling on film and led her to take some courses at the Ontario College of Art and Design.

Continuing her day job as an advocate for children in the communications department of Children's Aid, Siobhan continued to be involved in making public service announcements and training videos. Finally, it was time for Siobhan to move on as a filmmaker and start making her own films. Siobhan's first short film *Breakfast With Gus* premiered at the Toronto Film Festival and went on to be programmed at over 40 festivals world-wide. Her second short film, *Rape*, also played at many festivals and won an award for best actress at St. John's Film Festival.

Marrying Siobhan's early work of documentary and her new found self expression, Siobhan made a documentary *My Tango With Porn*, about her own experience with the porn industry.

Siobhan has several projects in development, sits on several boards and loves to teach young people how to express themselves on film whenever and wherever she can.



JULES KOOSTACHIN
Toronto, ON

Born in Moose Factory, Ontario, Jules Arita Koostachin was raised by her Cree speaking grandparents for part of her childhood in Moosonee, as well as her mother in Ottawa. She is from Attawapiskat First Nation, presently living in Toronto finishing graduate school at Ryerson University and working on her goal of becoming a successful filmmaker.

Graduating from Concordia University's Fine Arts Program in 1996, with a Major in Theatre, she continues to be an active member of the arts community. She continues to work part time in the field of social work, yet ensures to dedicate enough time and energy to writing, directing, and acting. With a number of published works, (3) produced short films recently signed on with Quat Media Distributors, and two feature length screenplays, *Passing of Souls* and *Broken Angel*, she is persistent in establishing herself in the film and television community.

Some of her credits include (2) seasons (2001-2003) as a co-host of *Cooking with the Wolfman* on *Aboriginal Peoples Television Network*, theatre productions of her own work *Earth Whispers* and *The White Spider Woman*; she strives to further develop her novel *Words for my Daughters*, she recently received a grant from the Ontario Arts Council to complete it in 2010. She also is awaiting news regarding the publication of her manuscript of poetry entitled *Reclaiming Matriarchy: The Red Path*.

She later went on to graduate with Honors from the *Assaulted Women and Counseling Advocacy Program* at George Brown College in 1998. Then went on to work as a senior manager for the only Aboriginal violence against women shelter in Toronto, until 2007. In the spring of 2008, Jules completed *Screenwriting* and *Produce & Direct Your Own Short Film* at George Brown College. Later, she successfully completed the *Ryerson University Summer Film Intensive Program*, where she was nominated for the Peter Gerretsen Film Awards for Best Achievement, Editing and Screenwriting. She won for Screenwriting. Jules was also a recipient of the Ontario Arts Council Award in 2008 for developing her feature length screenplay entitled *Broken Angel*, a story about breaking the cycle of violence against women. The screenplay won for the *Best Fresh Voice Award* at the Toronto Female Eye Festival in 2009.

Presently, Jules registered her production company *VisJuelles Productions* and will be incorporating in the fall of 2010, where she two television projects in development. She recently completed the *Documentary Media Graduate Program* at Ryerson University. Jules has also completed a self-produced and first feature documentary film entitled *Remembering Inninimowin* about her journey of remembering Inninimowin, the Cree language. Jules has been working in the Aboriginal community in both fields (social work and the arts) for many years servicing Aboriginal women and children who are facing barriers in the city Toronto and beyond. She hopes to continue creating pieces of work in theatre, television and film that will bring to light social issues that urban and rural Aboriginal peoples face.

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EVA MADDEN-HAGEN
Halifax, NS

Born and raised in Newfoundland, filmmaker Eva Madden-Hagen acquired her first taste of movie making while attending Concordia University's Film Production Program in Montreal, Quebec. While learning the art of light and sound, she made two short films, and completed the BFA (Cinema) Specialization in Film Production, while garnering the Dean's Award for Excellence in Filmmaking. This success carried Eva and her passion for filmmaking to Vancouver, British Columbia, where she began working right away as a sound mixer for documentaries and a sound assistant for "Hollywood North" film and television, mentoring with many innovative directors along the way.

With the turn of a new millennium, she packed her bags for a return to the East Coast and set up shop in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Eva is a versatile filmmaker, working in both drama and documentary. In 2009 her comedy mockumentary, *Sunnyvale Stories* was released on DVD with the final Trailer Park Boys feature film, *Countdown to Liquor Day*. In early 2010, she wrote and directed an episode of the nationally broadcast CBC documentary series, *Land and Sea*, entitled, *Winter Wave Riders* telling the story of winter surfing in Nova Scotia's frigid ocean. Her latest dramatic film, with producer Rebecca Sharratt, was the recipient of the CBC / Film Nova Scotia Bridge Award and will be premiering at Canadian Film festivals this summer.

Eva was selected to participate in The 2008 Toronto International Film Festival's "Pitch This!" competition for her teen vampire adaptation *Forever 15*, now in development. In 2007 she wrote and directed the National Screen Institute of Canada/CBC Drama Prize film *Eastern Shore*. The film garnered the award for "Best Original Score" at the 2007 Atlantic Film Festival, and "Best Film" from the Nova Scotia Surf-Riders Association. *Eastern Shore* was broadcast on CBC's Canadian Reflections and is currently playing on Movieola: The Short Film Channel. Her documentary short *Maximum 50* was screened at the 2006 Viewfinders International Film Festival for Youth, and went on to win "Best Direction" and "Best Editing" at the 15th Annual Atlantic Filmmaker's Co-operative Film Festival. *Maximum 50* was also screened in Los Angeles, California, as part of "Best of The Attack" film series and broadcast on the series finale for CBC ZeD. Eva's first feature film script *Sweet Nothing* was part of the Atlantic Film Festival's 2006 "Inspired Scripts Program" and went on to win the "Astral Media Harold Greenberg/Telefilm Inspired Scripts Pitch". *Sweet Nothing* is currently in development with Halifax's Idlewild Films.

In the summer of 2010 Eva was selected for the Atlantic Mentorship Program with the CFTPA (Canadian Film and Television Production Association). She will be training as an associate producer with an up and coming production company – Hemmings House Pictures. To keep things interesting, Eva also works as a freelance sound designer, creating soundscapes for film, television and animation. Her latest credits include "Zed Crew" which premiered at the 2010 Cannes Film Festival, and the feature film, "Afghan Luke" directed by Mike Clattenberg and distributed by Alliance Films.



GAIL MAURICE
Toronto, ON

Gail is a Métis filmmaker, proud to speak her language Michif/Cree. She founded Assini Productions Inc. in 2006 to produce quality Indigenous films. Gail began her career as an actor in 1992 but branched into filmmaking in 2004. The film, Johnny Greyeyes, was a turning point for her. She not only starred in the film, she co-wrote it.

Gail's written dramatic screenplays, documentaries and a 13 part music series which can be seen on APTN. Her films have screened in film festivals worldwide. She was one of five Canadian filmmakers to be selected to attend the Sundance film festival in 2006, with her film, "Smudge". She was also selected to Michael Moore's Traverse City Film Festival. "Thirst", is her most recent film, a film about uranium in the drinking water of Keewaywin, a Northern Ontario First Nations community.

Gail was a recipient of the 2008 Quebecor Documentary Fellowship, presented by Hot Docs and DOC Toronto. Gail also received the Alliance Atlantis Mentorship award, with Cindy Witten, VP History Channel at the 2005 ImagineNATIVE film festival (now the Director General of NFB English Program).

Gail's next project is a drama to be shot in Northern Saskatchewan using non-actors who will be speaking Michif/Cree.



ARLIN MCFARLANE
Whitehorse, YT

A theatre director by training and profession, Arlin has lived and worked in the Yukon since 1983. Her theatre practice includes work in storytelling, acting, directing for the theatre and choreographing dance. She is the artistic director of Yukon Educational Theatre and has mounted plays large and small and toured them across the Yukon. In the early 90's she began collaborating with Dancers With Latitude and choreographed a number of dance pieces. From that she moved on to filming dance and in 2000 she started her love affair with film.

TENDING TOWARD SILENCE, (2007) her first short film, a narrative, is without dialogue and tells the story of a woman building a bed of rocks and then taking her final rest. For this Arlin won the Dawson City International Short Film Festival award for best emerging artist. The film has been seen in many festivals around the world.

LOVE, EMMA, written by Marten Berkman, gave Arlin her second directing opportunity. Their close work together earned her a co-writing credit, LOVE, EMMA was selected as an official entry into the Planet in Focus festival. Shot on a Red Camera and benefiting from a large crew, it was a first opportunity to direct and edit with considerable resources.

Most recently Arlin participated as a writer in the writers room to create a 13 episodes web series for the Yukon Film and Sound Commission. She has gone on to direct Episode 112 and 113 and looks forward to seeing the completion of the project in 2011.

During this time Arlin has taught acting classes at Yukon College, communications workshops for various organizations, created a number of well-loved community celebration events including Burning Away the Winter Blues, fulfilled the role of casting director for both local and visiting productions, volunteered with Hospice Yukon and raised a family.

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JUANITA PETERS
Dartmouth, NS

Juanita Peters has been in the world of media since 1981. She began her career as the afternoon newscaster for the Annapolis Valley Radio Network. Peter's later became the legislative reporter for CFNB in Fredericton, New Brunswick before moving on to the anchor desk at CHSJ television in Saint John, New Brunswick. Before leaving her career in news, Juanita Peters joined the CBC suppertime news team "NB Now". In 1996 she moved to Nova Scotia where she worked on a number of television series such as "This Hour Has 22 Minutes", "Hallelujah", and "Marrying Well". She also worked on a number of feature films and documentaries in various positions. In 1999 Juanita Peters formed her own production company, where today she develops, writes, directs and produces documentary.

Her first film, **I MADE A VOW** was nominated for two golden sheaf awards at the Yorkton Short Film Festival. Her film, **HANNAH'S STORY** won best short film at the Bermuda International Children's Festival and most inspiration film at the Vancouver Reel 2 Real Festival. Currently, she is travelling with her latest project, **AFRICVILLE: CAN'T STOP NOW**, which has been listed in both the Nova Scotia and New Brunswick teachers' resource guide.

As an actor Juanita Peters has appeared in more than a dozen made for television movies and several feature films, commercials and television series. As a member of Actra Maritimes, Peters' has acted as the diversity chair on council. She is currently also a founding board member of the newly formed Women In Film and Television Atlantic, where she chairs the programming committee.

As member of the Writers Guild of Canada, Juanita Peters has served on several juries over the last decade and continues to look for interesting opportunities for Canadian writers.

Juanita Peters is a native of Saint John, New Brunswick and currently lives in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.



JANE SOWERBY
Toronto, ON

Jane has been a working actor in film and television for over twenty-five years. She grew up in Kelowna, BC and at age 19 attended THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF DRAMATIC ARTS summer acting classes in New York. She was then accepted to study full-time at New York's prestigious NEIGHBORHOOD PLAYHOUSE but opted to pursue rock and roll singing aspirations instead. She honed her chops fronting various bands including 'A TRIBUTE TO JANIS JOPIN'. She eventually landed in Los Angeles and was repped by Crosby, Stills & Nash manager Gerry Tolman and Montley Crue attorney David Rudich. Alas a recording deal was evasive and she moved to Vancouver B.C. where she found steady work acting in film & television while continuing to write songs...having had numerous placed in nationally aired specials.

She has had guest star and supporting roles on such shows as *DaVinci's Inquest*, *The Outer Limits*, *Honey I Shrank the Kids*, *Dead Man's Gun*, *Mysterious Ways*, *Poltergeist*, *The Life and Hard Times of Guy Terrifico*, *Beautiful Joe*, *Cold Squad* and most recently the new Canadian feature *Comforting Skin*. She has had recurring roles on TV series including *Cra\$h & Burn (Showcase)*, *Instant Star (CTV)*, *Mentors (Family Channel)*, *Cold Feet (NBC)* and David Steinberg's *Big Sound*. Some of her MOW credits include a supporting role opposite Shawnee Smith (SAW) in 'Secrets of An Undercover Wife' & 'Christmas on Chestnut Street' playing Christmas obsessed 'Linda Markham' directed by Anne Wheeler.

Sowerby has written/directed/produced & edited numerous shorts. Her first JANE POST...a 23 minute comedy about an actress on 'the audition from hell' premiered at the Los Angeles International Short Film Festival and was nominated for 6 LEO AWARDS including 'BEST SHORT', 'BEST SCREENWRITER' & 'BEST DIRECTOR' garnering her a win for 'BEST ACTRESS'.

She has written four feature scripts & three television comedy series treatment/pilot scripts. Her comedy/drama feature script 'MYRTLE' was recently optioned and is in to Telefilm Toronto. An uplifting and funny story of an endearing young misfit who searches for love and redemption after a childhood accident leaves her face disfigured and her mother dead.

Sowerby's short films can be viewed at www.janesowerby.com