

**MAIRZEE ALMAS, North Vancouver, BC**  
**WIDC 2003 Director Participant**

Directors Guild of Canada  
Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television

MAIRZEE ALMAS has worked as a 1<sup>st</sup> AD in Vancouver for the past seven years. She has served as 1<sup>st</sup> AD on DAVINCI'S INQUEST since the series debuted five years ago. Episode 45, *Birds Have Been at Her*, marked Almas' directorial debut.

As a 1st AD, Almas has worked on such feature films as: STARK RAVING MAD; LIBERTY STANDS STILL; TELEPRESENCE and REINDEER GAMES- 2nd Unit. For television, her credits include: MOW Special Delivery and such series as: CALL OF THE WILD; VIPER and POLICE ACADEMY. She worked her way up through the AD ranks on shows that sparked comments like "That must have been interesting," to "Good Lord, you didn't work on that thing did you?"

With a degree in Outdoor Recreation Almas worked for several years with youth at risk and street kids mostly scaring the bejesus out of them in the remote wilderness of British Columbia, helping them to reach goals well beyond their perceived capabilities. It was very rewarding but also extremely taxing. A serious ankle injury eventually helped her reassess her own goals and sent her back to school. Almas enrolled in the 2 Year Theatre program at Anthony Holland and Catherine Cain in Vancouver. It opened a new world to Almas and although she enjoyed being an actor she realized she really wanted to work behind the camera. Almas began as a production assistant for commercials eventually becoming a production co-ordinator, still auditioning and landing the odd gig as the harried but happy young mom (who knew that 47% of women were harried but happy young moms, 50% were hooker/strippers and the last 3% were sexy, strong-willed yet lonely reporters or cops.)

Almas used her time during productions, learning all she could, assisting the best boys with the inventory of their trucks, peppering them with questions about gear and badgering the D.P.'s. with questions during camera tests. She realized she really wanted to move away from the production office and work on set yet had so much more to learn. Almas was off to the Vancouver Film School and signed up full-time in the Foundation Film Program. She went into the film program extremely clear about what she wanted and came out with more than she could have hoped for. She left the program with a short film learning valuable lessons and insights. With a very good reason her short film is kept in a government warehouse next to the Ark of the Covenant.

Upon graduation Almas began her career in the A.D. field, making a living while learning from the dozens of directors she has had the opportunity to work with. She plans to continue learning, to create opportunities to direct and to eventually author her own films.