



**SARAH MICHELLE BROWN, Richmond Hill, ON  
WIDC 2005 Director Participant**

"Sarah Michelle Brown? I heard she's kind of like George Lucas (*pre-prequel*), except she's female, Black, and Canadian."

Sarah comes from a diverse background, starting with Biochemistry studies at York University. Realizing that science wasn't where her heart lay, she lived in a completely different world for a while... modeling. Through that industry, she found herself working in

Chicago for a time. While there, Sarah was so inspired by the city's poetry slams that she began to write. She also picked up a still camera, put in a roll of black and white film for the first time, and began to see the world framed differently. A year later, Sarah quit modeling and moved to New York City, where she studied acting at The Neighborhood Playhouse School of Theater. Upon returning to Toronto, Sarah worked diligently at her main crafts of acting, writing, and photography... Then she found filmmaking as a bridge to her passions. When Sarah decided to make that leap, she approached the various Canadian arts councils, and was informed that for a "*first project grant*", she needed a demo reel. The irony was not lost on her. So she decided to quickly put something together for the arts council jury as support material. She chopped down a twenty-minute script to a six-minute film that could be shot in one day, in one location, for almost no money. That little "demo" became her first short film *BLIND DATE*, which went on to screen at film festivals around the world and was nominated for best short film and best actress at the Reel Black Awards.

So Sarah made her first short film... To get funding to make her first short film.

Sarah was one of 6 finalists at the Toronto International Film Festival's "Pitch This" competition in 2002, and also won the inaugural CBC/Innovarsity dramatic programming internship competition that same year. She has written, directed and produced two short films, *BLIND DATE* and *EDEN'S WAKE* which also screened at several festivals around the world. Sarah is currently workshopping her first full-length stage play *FIRST HAND WOMAN*. She is in development for a short film *MOCHA LATTE* through ZeD, and has just landed a pre-license from CBC's Canadian Reflections for another short film called *BY LIFE'S FEET*. She will be writing, directing and producing both of those films. As well, Sarah has recently been commissioned to write the pilot for her own original sci-fi thriller radio series for CBC. Sarah is currently writing 2 feature-length screenplays, which she intends to direct within the next few years. One of these feature scripts, *THE PURITY REPORT*, has already won her the "Fresh Voice" screenwriter's award at the Female Eye Film Festival.

Sarah Michelle was a co-winner of the 2005 @Wallace Studios WIDC Alumnae Award. This award will provide studio space for Sarah Michelle to shoot her sci-fi short *MOCHA LATTE*.