



**KALLI PAAKSPUU, Toronto, ON**  
**WIDC 2006 Director Participant**

Genie-winning filmmaker, scholar, new media and theatre artist, Kalli Paakspuu is the co-founder of the feminist non-profit organization, Womenfilm/Womenart, has curated film series in Canada and internationally, and has made films that have won international acclaim, including the feminist cult classic, *I NEED A MAN LIKE YOU TO MAKE MY DREAMS COME TRUE* (1986) and the dramatic short, *OCTOBER ALMS* (1978). The award winning experimental documentary, *WHEN EAST MEETS EAST* (1997), co-directed by Kevin Feng Ke of Tiananmen Square's 1989 student democracy

movement, features an international retrospective of films by Chinese directors and a unique perspective on the Chinese diaspora. This documentary is distributed by Films for the Humanities and Sciences and was featured at IDFA (Amsterdam), Montreal's New Media Festival, Hot Docs, Toronto, Commonwealth Film Festival, Kuala Lumpur and over twenty festivals in Europe, Asia, Australia and North America.

She is the founding artistic director of Collective for Living Theatre, which produced the critically acclaimed English World premiere of Liliane Atlan's *LES MERS ROUGES (THE RED SEAS)* for Toronto's Fringe Theatre Festival (2005). She adapted this play from a four hour Radio France broadcast to an eighty-five minute live production that featured beautiful Ladino love songs under the music direction of Eyal Bitton and a compelling story of five hundred years of Jewish resistance from Liliane Atlan's own family legacy. *LES MERS ROUGES* was Paakspuu's first full length theatrical production as producer and director and got a rave review in the French *L'Express* and a three and a half star recommendation in the *Eye Weekly* where it was described as an "ably produced and challenging adaptation of a postmodern French work". She recently directed excerpts of *LES MERS ROUGES* in French at Le Salon du Livre de Toronto, 2005. In October 2004 she produced, wrote and directed her forty-five minute play, *TIME OUT*, a dystopic and riotous critique of the privatisation of medicine to a full house at the Bad Dog Short Play Festival in Toronto.

She has been in artist-in-residency programmes at Trinity Square Video and Fringe Research (Holography) and her work in photography, video installation and holography has been featured in Toronto galleries such as Arcadia, Bluffs, The Gallery at University of Toronto, Scarborough, MacDonald Block, A Space, Walter Haeberman, Interference Hologram Gallery, Inter/Access, Trinity Square Video, the Consillium and "PHOTOGRAPHS DANCE: A COLLECTION" (a book of dance photographs selected from a national representation) which featured her as one of twelve photographers/"visual choreographers", published by 15 Dance Lab, Toronto, 1981.

Paakspuu has written publications on indigenous knowledge and media practice and expects to defend her doctoral dissertation, "Rhetorics of Colonialism in Visual Documentation" at the University of Toronto in 2006. Her thesis examines early colonial cross-cultural photographic practices and the dialogical storytelling modes on both sides of the camera. She currently teaches screenwriting in the Film and Video Department at York University and popular culture in the Women's Studies Department at Queen's University. She has served on various boards including Canadian Filmmakers' Distribution Centre, Womenfilm/ Womenart Inc., Scarborough Arts Council and the Toronto Filmmakers Co-op