



**LESLEY ANN PATTEN, Halifax, NS**  
**WIDC 2005 Director Participant**

Lesley Ann Patten is a filmmaker. As a director/writer she began creating material for television in 1988. Since then, her work has been broadcast internationally in Canada, the U.S. and Europe.

Lesley Ann makes her home in Halifax, Nova Scotia. She is a member of the WGC, CFTPA, DOC, and the Academy. She is a past board member of the Nova Scotia Film and Television Producers Association. She is also on the board of Dorje Denma Ling and the Khyentse Foundation. Her other interests include reading, studying flamenco, and working with a prisoners rights group. She has won numerous fellowships including the Telefilm Animation Intensive in London, England; the NSI MIP-COM fellowship to Cannes; the CTV Banff Fellowship; the Sharing Stories fellowship to Glasgow, Scotland; the National Film Board Production Seminar in Toronto.

Lesley Ann's first documentary, *LOYALTIES*, premiered on the CTV Network, and won the Canada Award at the Gemini's in 1999, along with Best Social Issue at HOT DOCS. It was declared one of "The Ten Best Documentaries of 2000" at the American Film Institute Festival. Beneath the dense foliage of Southern plantations, in the sweltering heat of white patronage and black forbearance, two women, come to terms with slavery, and the thunderous cruelty of the past.

Lesley Ann's second documentary, *THE VOICE SET FREE* and won her another Gemini for Best Direction of a Documentary. Patten shot the majority of this beautiful and emotionally intense film on High Definition, the new super reality format, and mixed it with footage from a handheld mini-digital camera.

She created her first performance film in 1996. It featured Yo Yo Ma, Emanuel Ax and Peter Sirkin. She had to create a soundstage in Halifax on which to film horses, an elaborate oriental costume department, employ a 24 year old Tibetan Rinpoche as one of her lead actors, find a star horse to play opposite him, commission horse choreography and a series of Japanese court dances, work with a bi-lingual crew, compete with James Cameron's making of *THE TITANIC* to get them, enchant a 40 foot crane to come to Nova Scotia. The end result? A nomination for Best Performance Film at the international Banff Television Festival, and a broadcast on Bravo!

Lesley Ann released her first feature length documentary in 2004. *WORDS OF MY PERFECT TEACHER* is still playing at festivals around the world, including HOT DCOS, Rio DeJanerio, Vladivostok, Hawaii, San Francisco, Los Angeles and more.... It has won awards internationally, and screened both theatrically and by broadcast worldwide.

Lesley Ann has just completed her second theatrical doc, *REGARDING COHEN* due for release in autumn 2005. Her company, ZIJI Film & Television Ltd, also functions as an executive producer and co-producer on other productions.