

THE WOMEN IN THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR WORKSHOP 2007

Director Participants (in alphabetical order)

SMITA ACHARYYA, Calgary, AB

Smita has successfully written, produced and directed several award-winning short films as well writing the AMPIA nominated documentary VIVA BENGALI. Her debut film SECOND COMING IN THE 2nd GRADE received the NSI ZeD Drama Prize. Smita produced the Bravo!FACT short SUPERHERO WANNABE which won Best Film of the 2004 Seven Minute Film Festival, and was an official selection of several major film festivals including the Toronto, Calgary and Vancouver International Film Festival.

KATRIN BOWEN, Vancouver, BC

Katrin's directing career began while a student at UC Berkeley, where she made an award-winning documentary on rap music: SPITTING REALITY. Recently, her film ALMOST FORGOT MY BONES won the Best International Film Award at the Chroma Festival in Guadajara, Mexico and the Audience Choice Award and Vision Award for Best Direction at the 2004 Vancouver Videopoetry Festival. SAND CASTLE, her film selected for the 2006 Crazy 8's Film Festival won the Citytv Diversity Prize. She has just completed her first feature script OFF COURSE that she looks forward to directing in the fall of 2007.

JESSICA BRADFORD, Vancouver, BC

Jessica is an award-winning filmmaker and graduate of the Canadian Film Centre. She has written and directed several short films all of which have won awards and screened at festivals around the world, including NSI Drama Prize film WHEN I WAS SEVEN...(Gemini), THE TELESCOPE (Kick Start) and WINTER SUN (Canadian Film Centre).

ALANA CYMERMAN, Montreal QC

After a stint in the New York independent arts scene, Alana cut her teeth working in Montreal's film industry. Her directing credits include an episode of WOMEN WARRIORS (CBC) and short films WHEN ERMA MADE HERMAN and ROOM TONES. She is currently working on her next project, a feature length script: THE WORLD ON BELLA'S SHOULDERS.

SIBEL GUVENC, Toronto, ON

A graduate of Ontario College of Art and Design with honors, Sibel has directed, produced and wrote five award winning and internationally screened short films. She is currently developing her feature films BROKEN EGGS, a sci-fi, GOD NABU, a comedy and EYES OF DREAMS, a psychological thriller for Kybele Films, the production company she established in 2004. Sibel has just completed her latest short film HUNGARIAN SALAMI in MAGIC, MYTH AND DREAMS series.

TARA HUNGERFORD, Vancouver, BC

Tara has directed television shows such as MAKING IT BIG, THE SHOPPING BAGS and the second unit for ROBSON ARMS season 2. She has also directed short films, music videos and commercials. In 2006 she was presented the Kodak Image Award for her achievements as a director at Women in Film and Video Vancouver's annual Spotlight Gala.

KELLY-RUTH MERCIER, Vancouver, BC

Kelly-Ruth, originally trained as an actor, holds an M.F.A (Directing) from UBC. She continues to work as a performer, writer, director, producer, singer, and VFX producer. Kelly-Ruth has also produced or directed several shorts that have been broadcast in Canada and screened in Europe, Asia and North America, including two KickStart projects, the Crazy 8 film 24/7, and the CBC Signature Short STILL LIFE WITH SCISSORS. K-R continues to develop projects through her production company, Infinite Motion Pictures, including the feature THE BIGGER RISK, a CanLit series MUSE, and the feature doc TIME TO MOTHER.

LAURENCE VERON, Winnipeg, MB

Laurence directed her first documentary in 1999, LE BLE ET LA PLUME, which won the 2001 Blizzard Award for Best Direction of a non-dramatic film and went on to be screened in various festivals, including the Montreal International Art Films Festival. Since then, Laurence has worked on many documentary TV series. She directed her first short film when studying at the Institute National de l'Image and du Son in 2003, and her second 30-minute short for Radio-Canada in the winter of 2005-06. She also works as an editor and has several screenplays ready for production.