

CREATIVE WOMEN WORKSHOPS ASSOCIATION (CWWA)

Board of Directors

WIDC PRESENTING PARTNER REPRESENTATIVES



CAROL WHITEMAN
President & CEO / WIDC Producer

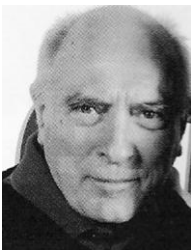
A two-time Governor General's Award-nominee for promoting women's equality in Canada, winner of the 2005 Sam Payne Award for Humanity, Integrity and the Encouragement of New Talent presented by the Union of BC Performers/ACTRA as well as the CBC Sharon Gibbon Lifetime Member Award presented by WIFVV at the 2006 Spotlight Awards, Carol is also a graduate of York University's Theatre Performance Honours BFA program. She began her career in the early 80's in Toronto, Ontario, acting professionally in local and regional theatre, television and film productions. Shortly after she migrated to the west coast she married and had a son who inspired her to give back to the community. She was soon elected to the local and national councils of ACTRA where she played a key role in the reunification of the British Columbia and the national bodies of ACTRA. She became an active advocate for women's issues as chair of ACTRA's BC Women's Committee as well as through her involvement with Women In Film and the Canadian and BC Federations of Labour. She was the vice-chair of the National ACTRA Women's Committee from 1996 to 2003, is a member of a variety of industry organizations and a graduate of the Alliance Atlantis Banff Television Executive Program.

Carol is a co-creator of The Women In the Director's Chair (WIDC) Workshop and has continued to develop and produce the program since its inception in 1996/97. She produces the eight short films (works in progress) shot of the WIDC PPPM each year, facilitates workshop sessions and provides personal coaching for the director participants in developing their career plans. Through her role at CWWA, Carol provides program follow-up mentorship for director alumnae, fundraises and publishes the annual WIDC Newsletter. She designed and delivers the new CTV WIDC Career Advancement Module providing a six-month follow up coaching program for each participant. A respected guest speaker and moderator she has delivered professional development offerings in New Zealand and across Canada including the Telefilm Canada Feature It! program for Anglo writers and producers in Quebec. Carol also plays a leadership role in British Columbia and nationally advocating for professional development and advanced training for the film and television industry on several advisory boards, committees and task forces.

KERRY STAUFFER
Board Director & The Banff Centre Representative to the Board
Executive Director, Film and Media, The Banff Centre

Kerry Stauffer is the executive director of Film & Media at The Banff Centre. Prior to her position at The Banff Centre, Kerry was the director of production and international program competition for Achilles Media Ltd., an event management organization that produces the Banff World Television Festival and other international events. In her role, Kerry was responsible for the leadership of the international program competition, which attracted over 900 program entries from over 40 countries each year.

Kerry has produced and edited national television specials for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. She also produced, directed and edited four seasons of the Banff Masters series, an in-depth profile of producers, writers, and directors from around the world which was broadcast on BRAVO. Kerry was the executive producer for the inaugural World Congress of Arts Producers & Performance which brought together leading international art broadcasters, producers, and artists to discuss and showcase current trends in art and performance television. She also has participated in international exchanges including IBC and IETV, Rio de Janeiro, where she presented a lecture on cultural diversity on television in Canada.



BRIAN GROMOFF
Secretary / Treasurer & the ACTRA Representative to the Board

Brian Gromoff is an ACTRA Councillor and Past President of ACTRA Calgary, as well as Past President and former Treasurer of ACTRA National. Brian has been ACTRA's Liaison to The WIDC Workshop since its inception in 1996/97. As Treasurer of Creative Women Workshops Association, Brian has provided guidance on overall programming and budgeting along with participant and faculty adjudications. Brian is also a respected actor based in Calgary, Alberta with numerous film and theatre roles to his credit. In 2002 he was nominated to the Order of the University of Calgary for his outstanding contribution to the university and the community at large as he successfully headed U of C's Standardized Medical Patient Testing Program for over a decade.

CREATIVE WOMEN WORKSHOPS ASSOCIATION (CWWA)

Board of Directors



KATIE TALLO
Vice-President

Katie is a graduate of Carleton University and Algonquin College in Ottawa, Ontario. She holds a BA in Film and English and a Diploma in Television Broadcasting. Katie honed her skills by attending a number of directing and writing master classes before being invited to participate in the prestigious Women in the Director's Chair Workshop in 1997. In her first five years in business, Katie wrote, produced and directed more than thirty-five half-hours of network television. Honoured as Ottawa's best director for her debut short film, Katie won support from The Canada Council, The Ontario Arts Council, CTV's Fellowship Program and Telefilm Canada. She also won several national production competitions for her innovative program ideas. In 2000, Katie wrote and directed two dramatic television series and a movie. By 2002, her first feature film was screening at festivals across the country. The film, *Posers*, is still in international distribution. For over fifteen years, Katie ran her own production company, developing, financing and producing innumerable projects. Moving into the freelance market in 2004, she has established a solid reputation for herself as a creative writer and director. Through her own company, Tallovision, Katie is busy traveling across the country offering her creative expertise to corporate and government clients and to the on-going documentary television series "Truth, Duty, Valour" and "Courage in Red". She currently lives and works in Ottawa with her husband and daughter.



TAMMY BENTZ
Board Director & Signing Officer

Over the past several years, Tammy has written and directed numerous short films, including the award winning *CHOMP* that has been featured at various film festivals throughout Canada and the U.S. She's also directed *The NEW MUM FITNESS Video* as well as directed the dramatic portion of the Tommy Longboat Episode for Annie Frazier Henry's *APTIN Series, CHIEFS AND CHAMPIONS*. Most recently, Tammy has associate produced and directed *B Roll* for segment profiles with Moore Media for *Business Television*. While her half hour documentaries *PASSION HUNTER: SAYING YES* and *PASSION HUNTER: IMPULSE* have screened at the Whistler Film Festival, The Female Eye Film Festival in Toronto and the Banff Summer Arts Festival, Tammy has also directed final projects for Capilano University's Full Time Acting Program which screened at Pacific Cinematique last year. Presently, she is in development for a one hour documentary about the plight of religious women in the catholic church.

Tammy comes to directing from an acting and writing background as well as working as Script Supervisor in Vancouver's film industry. As a Graduate from the Vancouver Playhouse Acting School with a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Alberta, Tammy has performed in the majority of theatres across Western Canada. She was Co-Founder and Co-Artistic Director of the internationally award winning *full figure theatre company*, writing and performing the troupes highly acclaimed comedies --*WAY TOO BLONDE*, *THE "F" WORD (CAN FEMINISM BE FUNNY?)* and *WUMPA...AN ADVENTURE*--all over the world. In addition to directing for *full figure*, she's also directed for Green Thumb Theatre and Theatre Under The Gun. Tammy continues to direct & teach for the Vancouver Film School as well as BCIT and is a member of the CWWA Board of Directors.



MARY BISSELL
Board Director

From her beginnings as the director of *A Bog in My Backyard*, an environmental documentary produced in association with CBC *Ro Cuts*, Bissell has built a strong portfolio of factual programming, bringing style and wit to her producing, directing, and on-screen hosting. Her most recent documentary is a funny, heartfelt, and thought-provoking account of how a small, First Nations town went cold turkey and gave up sugar and junk food for a year. Described as *Supersize Me* meets *Northern Exposure*, *My Big Fat Diet* aired on CBC *NewsWorld* in March 2008 and was recommended as a Critics Choice in *The Globe and Mail*. It won the Silver Chris Award at the Columbus International Film and Video Festival and screened at the American Indian Film Festival. Her previous documentary, *Nak* premiered at the Festival des Films du Monde in Montreal, and is the most watched documentary ever to air on CBC *NewsWorld's Lens*.

Bissell created the 13-part series *Healing with Animals* that she co-produced with partner, Christian Bruyere, for Discovery Health Channel Canada, and which now airs around the world. This series brought Bissell many accolades including a bronze plaque from the Columbus International Film Festival and three Leo Awards for "Best Information Series," "Best Director, Information Series," and "Best Screenwriter, Information Series." She also co-produced the series *Beyond Invention* that is now airing on Discovery Science Channel in the US. From 2003 to 2008, Bissell was co-host of Knowledge Network's *The Leading Edge*, where she earned her chops as a filmmaker by directing, hosting, and writing over fifty short documentaries. This series took her to Africa where she directed and hosted *The Gambia: Communities in Action*, a documentary which picked up a Bronze Plaque from the Columbus International Film and Video Festival; and earned this recognition from the esteemed Stephen Lewis, former UN Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa: "...the film documentary constitutes a startling amalgam of intelligence, insight, creativity and what can only be called unabashed enthusiasm.... I don't quite know how the film-maker pulled it off. I only know that it's an astonishing achievement."

In 2006, Bissell produced three short documentaries for CBC *News: Sunday*, including the popular *Grease*; and, with partner Christian Bruyere, produced and directed a one-hour documentary about child survivors of the tsunami in north-eastern Sri Lanka that was short-listed for the prestigious Deborah Fletcher Award for excellence in filmmaking on international development. In 2007 she did a guest stint as national columnist for *Vancouver Living*, where she produced and hosted a series of segments entitled *How Not To Have a Bad Hair Day*.

Bissell has a B.A. from the University of British Columbia and an M.A. in Graduate Liberal Studies from Simon Fraser University. She is a graduate of the 2009 Women in the Director's Chair workshop under the mentorship of Kari Skogland, and is a board member of Women in Film & Television Vancouver and of the Creative Women Workshops Association.

CREATIVE WOMEN WORKSHOPS ASSOCIATION (CWWA)

Board of Directors



CAROLE DUCHARME
Board Director

Carole Ducharme is an award-winning writer, director, producer and the founder of Witness Productions Inc. based in Vancouver, a production company dedicated to creating innovative films and television programs in English and in French.

Carole was born in Montreal and graduated from the University of Montreal's Law School. She started her producing career in Paris, France, where she co-produced Michel Brault's *Mon Amie Max* with Genevieve Bujold. After returning to Canada to reside in Vancouver, Carole associate produced the animated television series *Cybersix* broadcast on Teletoon and winner of the Leo award for Best Animated Series. She then wrote and directed the documentary *The Neighborhood Kids*, winner of a Blizzard Award. She also co-wrote, co-directed and associate produced the documentary *Man-Made Women*, which premiered at Hot Docs in Toronto. Carole produced the French version of the hockey docu-reality series *Bell Making the Cut - Le Repêchage Bell*, broadcast on RDS and CBC. She story produced and directed the second season of *Making The Cut - Last Man Standing*, broadcast on Global. Carole also directed the weight loss docu-reality series *X-Weighted*, broadcast on Slice. She was the Series Producer on *Smart Sex Talk* and *The Afterlife with Suzanne Northrop*, both 10 half-hour multi-camera studio series for OUtV and HERE! (USA). Carole wrote, directed and produced three short films. The comedy *Ben Voyons Camille!*, produced with the support of Telefilm, Canadian Heritage, Radio-Canada, the NFB and MFS, won the Best Short Film Award at the Female Eye Film Festival in Toronto. The comedy *Straight From the Suburbs* won the Nell Shipman Production Excellence Award for Best Short Film and was invited to more than 40 international film festivals. It has been broadcast in Canada, the USA and Australia and is being distributed on DVD in Europe. Carole has written the acclaimed feature script *The Women of My Life*, with the assistance of Telefilm, BC Film, HGF, Movie Central, and NSI Features First. *The Women of My Life* was invited to the 2007 French Production Forum in Namur, Belgium, and was a finalist at the Moondance International 2006 Screenplay Competition (Hollywood). Carole is currently assembling production financing for this feature. Additionally, Carole is writing the feature comedy *Le Donneur*, with the assistance of Telefilm Canada, and developing the dramedy television series *Pourquoi Vancouver?* for the SRC. Carole Ducharme is a graduate of the Women in the Director's Chair workshop and of the NSI Features First program. She is the Treasurer of the French Directors Outside of Quebec Association and a board member of Women in Film & Television Vancouver and of the Creative Women Workshop Association.



JINDER OUJLA CHALMERS
Board Director

Prior to her film career, Jinder studied and graduated from BCIT, in Broadcast Journalism. Her ten years in Broadcasting included on air reporting stints with Global, CBC, and CKVU in regional and national news. She also spent several years as a news reporter and traffic reporter in radio at CFUN, CHNL and CISEL radio. Jinder has spent the last 14 years in the film and television industry. She first studied Screenwriting and Film at Ryerson Polytechnical University in Toronto. She then moved to Vancouver and mentored with Alan Difiore from The Vancouver Film School and head writer for DAVINCI'S INQUEST. She stepped out of learning mode and joined forces with Dusmar Productions and wrote, co-produced and directed numerous documentaries, corporate and educational videos. Somewhere in there she also found the time to research and write an East Indian cookbook. Through her experience with Dusmar, Jinder decided to try it out on her own and formed her own little production company, Inner Vision Productions. With Inner Vision Jinder has produced, written and directed two national documentaries, COLOUR BLIND for the NFB and GOING BEYOND THE PAIN for Vision TV. In 1999, Jinder was the first recipient of the BC Film's Episodic Writing for Television Grant, which took her to TOUCHED BY AN ANGEL where she worked and co-wrote a television series pilot with Co- Executive Producer, RJ Colleary. Jinder then in 2000-2001 joined forces once again with ABC's Emmy Award-winning Executive Producer and Show runner Michael Braverman, who over saw the editing on her new series, THE SEEKER. That association led her to doing a directing mentorship on Fox Family's series, HIGHER GROUND. In 2001, Jinder once again took flight and landed in Los Angeles, only this time she was the honoured recipient of a mentorship placement with eight-time Emmy Award-winning director, James Burrows whom she shadowed on two episodes of NBC's hit comedy series, WILL & GRACE. Jinder is a recipient of the 2006 WIDC BANFF Fellowship. While at the festival she earned a development deal with APTN for her MOW project, CODE OF SILENCE. Her feature film ELVIS AND MRS SINGH has received Telefilm Canada development funding and in 2008 she earned a development deal and is now nearing production with CanWest Global on a new series, Combat Hospital. She is also in development on a cooking series for PBS called *Incredible Taste of India*.



RITA SHELTON DEVERELL. C.M., Ed.D.
Board Director

Rita is a producer/director, journalist, professor, and a theatre artist. In the summer of 2005 Deverell returned to the theatre. She's written and performed three one-woman shows, *Smoked Glass Ceiling*, *McCarthy and the Old Woman*, and *Big Ease, Big Sleaze*. She is the producer / director of a series of TV dramas, 3 x 1 hours, *Solo Flight: International*, broadcast on OMNI in 2007 and *Solo Flight: West*, 3 x 1 hours, broadcast on SCN and APTN in 2007, and a drama short, "Tipping Point" for Bravo!Fact. 2009 saw a 1-hour docu-drama "Not a Drop" for OMNI. Much honoured for her work in television, among Rita's awards are two Geminis, MacLean's Honour Roll of Outstanding Canadians, and the Black Achievement Award. Rita writes monthly opinion columns for the *Toronto SUN* and has been widely published on diversity issues in media. She was Director of News and Current Affairs for APTN, the world's first Aboriginal Peoples Television Network from 2002-05. While at APTN Deverell used her recognized team building and daily show running skills to mentor her Aboriginal successor. She is a founder of Vision TV and was its Head of Production and most visible face for 14 years. Deverell headed the School of Journalism at the University of Regina, has taught at Ryerson University, was the first CanWest Global Fellow in 2007 at the Faculty of Information and Media Studies of the University of Western Ontario, and in 2008 Storyteller-in-Residence at Centennial College's Centre for Creative Communication. She serves on seven voluntary boards of directors and advisory committees including the Ontario College of Art and Design and Creative Women's Workshops Association. Deverell holds a B.A. in Philosophy, a M.A. in the History of Religions, and a Doctor of Education degree in Curriculum. She is a member of the Canadian Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame and the Order of Canada. From 2009-11 Rita is honoured to be the 12th. holder of "Nancy's Chair in Women's Studies" at Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax.