

ALISA PALMER, Toronto, ON
WIDC 2004 Director Participant

As a theatre artist trained in physical techniques of theatre creation, Palmer's work is characterized by remarkable visuals, challenging physical performances and a bold use of music. Palmer works across the country as a director in large theatres and small, primarily focussing on bringing new Canadian work to the stage. Palmer directed and collaborated on the musical ANYTHINGTHAT MOVES by Ann-Marie MacDonald and composer Allen Cole, which premiered at the DuMaurier World Stage Festival (Nightwood Theatre) and which received Dora Awards for Outstanding New Musical, Outstanding Production and garnered Palmer a Dora Award for Outstanding Direction. She directed the development and premiere of SIBS by Diane Flacks and Richard Greenblatt at the Tarragon Theatre and its subsequent Canadian tour and SMUDGE, by Alex Bulmer, Canada's first professional play by a blind playwright. Palmer is a co-author of THE ATTIC, THE PEARLS, AND 3 FINE GIRLS (Scirrocco Press). She directed its premiere and numerous subsequent productions across Canada. Other directing credits include GOODNIGHT DESDEMON (GOODMORNING JULIET) featuring the playwright, Ann-Marie MacDonald, at Canadian Stage, which broke box office records and QUARTET by Eugene Stickland for Froth/Theatre Passe Muraille, for which she was nominated for a Dora for Outstanding Direction. Palmer also directs contemporary opera spectacles most recently, SIRENE / SIRENES, an a cappella, choreographed, bilingual performance for six sopranos, produced by Queen of Puddings Music Theatre. As a playwright, alone and with collective creations, she has received two Chalmers awards, for A PLAY ABOUT THE MOTHERS OF PLAZA DE MAYO and I.D. Most recently Palmer directed the Canadian premier of DIANA OF DOBSON'S by Cicely Hamilton at the Shaw Festival. She is the co-founder and co-director of Froth Productions, an award winning interdisciplinary performance company whose work has been seen in theatres, university seminars and bankrupt stores. Palmer was the Artistic Director of Nightwood Theatre, Canada's oldest and foremost women's theatre company from 1994-2001. Born and raised in New Brunswick, Canada, she completed a degree in History at McGill University. Her theatre formation was based in Montreal and included training with Phillippe Gaullier, of Ecole Jacques Lecoq (Bouffon and Masque Neutre), Cirque de Soleil (acrobatics), L'ecole de Mime Corporal de Montreal under Jean Asselin as well periods of study with Brazilian director Agostinho Boal.