

WIDC 2014 PERSONNEL BIOGRAPHIES

International Summit Guest Speakers

SUMMIT SPONSORS

WANDA BRADLEY, NBCUniversal

On behalf of NBCUniversal, welcome to the WIDC Creating Confidence: International Summit.

"NBCUniversal is very proud of the work accomplished through the Women In the Director's Chair program," says Wanda Bradley, Vice President of Sales, NBCUniversal "We are very enthusiastic about Canadian talent and honoured to have another opportunity to invest in practical, hands-on initiatives that support and encourage female directors and their growth in the industry."

WIDC MAJOR SPONSOR



JOHN DIPPONG, Telefilm Canada

John Dippong is Regional Director of Industry Promotion – English Market. John joined Telefilm in 1997, and has held several positions including 12 years as Regional Feature Film Executive. In his current role, he is responsible for managing Telefilm's Promotion Program, as well as identifying and implementing regional strategies, partnerships and special initiatives which respond to Telefilm Canada's corporate and promotional objectives - to stimulate demand for Canadian content and help to build a vibrant Canadian audio-visual industry.

"Telefilm Canada has been a major sponsor of the WIDC program since its inception in 1997. Telefilm's primary mandate is the promotion of Canadian talent, and of course this is dependent on our content creators getting their projects from the idea stage into production and out to audiences. WIDC has helped scores of women directors hone their skills in order to navigate the tricky path from idea to realization. They have alumnae from coast-to-coast, and we are proud to have supported many of their post-WIDC projects. We have also supported recent winners of the WIDC Feature Film Award, including Katrin Bowen, Lulu Keating, Ana Valine, and most recently, Siobhan Devine, 2013 winner of the WIDC Feature Film Award. The announcement of the 2014 winner will take place at the Summit closing session. If there is a consistent attribute among past winners, it is the time and attention they've spent reviewing their strengths and building their strategies for the future. It's hard to over-estimate the importance of reflection and planning. We look forward to learning the results of the summit and will be tracking this year's cohort of directors with great interest."

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FILM FESTIVAL REPRESENTATIVES



BARBARA JANES, St John's International Women's Film Festival, 25th Anniversary Committee

Barbara Janes was formerly Director General of English Program at the National Film Board of Canada where she oversaw the production of more than 500 films. She enjoyed a 30-year career with the NFB in Montreal, Ottawa, Halifax and Vancouver and served in a variety of positions including Producer and Executive Producer before becoming the NFB's top operational executive. After leaving the NFB, she worked for 4 years as the first Executive Director of the Ottawa-based Hnatyshyn Foundation, a private charity for the arts, established in memory of the Right Honourable Ramon John Hnatyshyn, Canada's 24th Governor General. Barbara currently lives in St. John's, NL, where she is a member of the Board of Directors of the St. John's International Women's Film Festival.

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LESLIE ANN COLES, Female Eye Film Festival, Founder & Executive Director

Leslie Ann Coles dedicated 18 years to Dance Theatre and mixed media performance art prior to transitioning from the stage to independent filmmaking in 1999. Her debut film, "In The Refrigerator", was selected for screenings in 35 international film festivals and garnered 13 international awards for "Best Picture", "Best Actress", "Best Short Film", "Best Film", "Best Debut Filmmaker", "Best Avant-Garde", and the Grand Jury Award: "Filmmaker In an Acting Role."

Founder and Executive Director, of the Female Eye Film Festival (FeFF), "Always Honest, Not Always Pretty" - established in 2001 is Canada's only annual international competitive *women directors* film festival. The Female Eye Film Festival offers a perspective of the world through the female eye and bridges the gap between the written, visual and media arts with an eclectic program, while illuminating the best of debut, emerging and established women directors from around the globe. Under the auspices of The Female Eye, Leslie Ann has executive produced thirty-two Super 8 short films directed by young aspiring female directors, which have premiered at the FeFF since 2006.

Currently, Leslie Ann is directing her debut documentary feature film titled, "Melody Makers", and performing while in pre-production for the upcoming 12th Annual Female Eye Film Festival, June 18th – 23rd, 2014.
For more information www.FemaleEyeFilmFestival.com



REBEKA COLES-ANANINA-BUNDRY, Female Eye Film Festival,

Rebeka Antanina Budrys, has championed women directors at The Female Eye Film Festival, Ontario's only competitive international film festival for women, as a volunteer since 2007. In 2010 Rebeka became an integral part of the festival and joined on as Director of Business Affairs and Administration.

Rebeka is a graduate of the Seneca College of Applied Art and Technology Media Communications, and Executive Office Administration Diploma Program. She is passionate about independent film, grass-roots marketing, project management, and design.

She currently works as an ACTRA Member and is in development on a number of independent projects. She will be celebrating twelve years of The Female Eye in June 2014.



CAROLYN COMBS, Women In Film and Television Vancouver, Executive Director

Carolyn Combs has been the Executive Director of Women in Film in Television Vancouver since June 2012. She is a Director/Producer and her work has been nationally broadcast as well as exhibited at the Toronto International Film Festival and numerous other Canadian and International Film Festivals. She is the recipient of a WIDC Director Development Award and a graduate of the Canadian Film Centre's Director Residency Program. She holds a Masters of Education with a specialization in curriculum and Bachelor of Fine Arts with a major in theatre.

CARLEEN KYLE, Women In Film and Television Vancouver, 25th Anniversary Committee

AMANDA BURKE, Women In Film and Television Vancouver, VIWIFF Committee

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GUEST DIRECTOR (International)



GAYLENE PRESTON, Filmmaker, New Zealand

Gaylene Preston's career has spanned three decades, and her generosity of spirit and her powerful mentorship and advocacy skills have been central to the development of New Zealand's filmmaking community.

After studying painting at Illam School of Fine Arts at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, NZ, Preston began making films while working at Fulbourn Psychiatric Hospital in Cambridge U.K. Since her return to her homeland in 1977, she has built an impressive body of independent work, several of which have become much-loved New Zealand classics. Gaylene Preston's award-winning films have screened extensively at international festivals including Venice, Sundance, Toronto, London, Chicago, Sydney, Melbourne and New Zealand.

Her most recent feature (2010) ***Home by Christmas***, won critical and popular acclaim and remains one of the top 15 grossing New Zealand films of all time at the New Zealand box office. She was appointed the inaugural filmmaker Arts Foundation Laureate in 2001 and is an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit recognising her services to filmmaking.

Her latest project, ***Hope and Wire***, a six-part television drama series written, produced and directed by Preston, is currently in post production being sound mixed at Park Road Post by Mike Hedges (Oscar nominated this year for *The Desolation of Smaug*) and graded by Clare Burlinson with cinematographer Thomas Burstyn CSC (*Defiance*).

Hope and Wire focuses on the social and psychological upheaval during the Christchurch earthquakes and aftermath of 2010/11, starring a strong ensemble cast lead by U.K. actor Bernard Hill (*LOTR*, *Titanic*).

The aftershocks run deep.

<http://www.gaylenepreston.com>

<http://www.homebychristmas.com/>