FILM TRAINING Manitoba

Presents

SWIFT

Summit for Women in Film Trades

2022

Founding Partners

The 48 Film Festival		The Manitoba Comstruction Sector Council	
Alliance of Canadian Cinema, Television and Radio Artists MB (ACTRA – MB)		Manitoba Institute of Trade and Technology	
Assiniboine Community College		Manitoba Start	
Creative Manitoba		Merit Motion Pictures	
City of Winnipeg - Films/Special Events		New Media Manitoba	
Department of the Status of Women		The Province of Manitoba's Sector Council Program	
Director's Guild of Canada's MB District Council (DGC–MDC)		Red River College Polytechnic	
Eagle Vision		Tripwire Media Group	
Elevate Inclusion Strategies		UNIT 204 Production Services	
FascinAsian Film Festival		UWPG Film Festival	
Folks Films		Urban Prairie Post Winnipeg	
FRANK Gear		Volunteer Manitoba	
Gimli Film Festival		Winnipeg Folk Festival	
The Indigenous Filmmakers Association		The Westland Foundation	
International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE) Local 856		Western University Continuing Studies	
International Cinematographers Guild (ICG) Local 669			

SWIFT Committee

Carrie Wilkins | Chairperson
Member of DGC-MDC & IATSE 856

Ellen Rutter | Vice-Chairperson
Member of DGC MB - Production Manager, Producer, FTM Board Member

Allison Bile | SWIFT Program Manager
FTM Workforce Development and Operations Manager

Shelly Anthis | Committee Member
City of Winnipeg Film and Special Events, City Film Liason

Sheen Chan | Committee Member
FTM Communications and Programs Coordinator

Rebecca Gibson | Committee Member
Member of ACTRA, Partner of Eagle Vision

Marnie Groeneveld | Committee Member
MITT Director, Centre for Career Development and Lifelong Learning

Christina Kasperczyk | Committee Member
Member ICG 669 Camera Operator, Stills Photographer

Jill Latchislaw | Committee Member
Business Development Manager, RRC Polytech

Heather Neale | Committee Member
Costume Designer, IATSE Local 856

Carol Paul | Committee Member
Executive Director (Manitoba Construction Sector Council

Danielle Sturk | Committee Member
Member of DGC-MDC - Director, DGC - Director's Committee, Writer

Alisha Talbot | Committee Member
Member of IATSE 856 - Key Makeup, IATSE 856 Women's Committee

Shauna Townley | Committee Member
Member ICG 669, Camera Operator, Stills Photographer

Kat Yee | Committee Member
Member of ICG 669, Creative BC

Day One – Set Orientation, Safety Awareness and Respect in the Workplace

Lesley Oswald | *Production Manager/Line Producer, Oswald Productions*

Instructor

Lesley Oswald has been in the film industry in Manitoba for over 40 years. During the course of her career she has worked in film and television industry as a Script Supervisor, Director, Producer, Line Producer, and Production Manager. She has worked on everything from Fred Penner's Place and Tippi Tales to Channel Zero and Burden of Truth. Lesley has served as an FTM board chair, mentor and instructor and she developed FTM's COVID-19 training course Smart Start.

Angela Wells | *Costume Department, IATSE 856*

Instructor

Angela Wells graduated from the International Academy of Design Montreal with an AEC in Clothing Design. In 2004, Angela was an FTM costume trainee on the feature film Population 436 and the made for TV movie Category 7. She has been a proud member of IATSE 856 in the Costume Department since 2005. Angela has had the opportunity to hold many positions throughout the department including Costume Design. What she loves most about working in film is not just the creative collaboration, but that each show presents itself with different challenges, rewards and continued learning.

Rebecca Gibson | *Head of Development, Eagle Vision*

Moderator

Rebecca Gibson is a partner in Eagle Vision and Head of Development. As a writer, director, producer, and actor, Rebecca's work in documentary, drama, and comedy has played around the world. Credits include her ACTRA Awardwinning role in The Pinkertons (Netflix); co-writing and producing Danishka Esterhazy's award-winning drama H&G; and writing and directing the awardwinning comedy Hard Way Girl. Rebecca was co-creator, executive producer, showrunner, and a writer and director for four seasons of the series Taken forwhich she won a Beyond Borders Media Award, and was nominated for three CSAs among several other honours.

Rebecca is producing Madison Thomas' feature Finality of Dusk; executive producing/co-showrunning and is an episode writer and director on the factual series 7TH GEN which she co-created; executive producing, showrunning, and directing the comedy series DJ Burnt Bannock; producing the podcasts The Waite List and What Does It Take? which she co-created; and leading development on several projects with companies around the world as well as her own film and TV projects. Rebecca is devoted to mentorship, working with the CMPA, ACTRA, WIDC, and several other organizations to support equity, diversity, accessibility, and inclusion. Rebecca founded Orange Daisy Project, a social action campaign in support of mental health for teen girls. She was honoured nationally as a CAMH Difference Maker and was ACTRA Manitoba's 2018 Woman of the Year.

Instructors and Panellists

Juliet Greenberg | *Membership & Community Manager, New Media Manitoba*

Panellist

Juliet has over 20 years of experience working with a variety of creative technologies and digital media companies. She is passionate about empowering women and elevating under-represented groups who want to learn more about career opportunities in the Interactive Digital Media (IDM) industry.

She has contributed to Manitoba's tech community for over ten years and is currently on the Executive Committee for the MB Women in Tech meetup group, and Pixel Pals MB, a meetup group that focuses on creating a safe and welcoming environment for marginalized genders to network with IDM industry professionals. In her role with New Media Manitoba (NMM), she focuses on creating value for NMM members and helps to amplify the collective successes of Manitoba's IDM industry.

Jane Kay | *Freelance Videographer*

Panellist

Jane has been a videographer in the freelance world for the past 17 years, working for PR House, CBC, and Midcan/Frank Digital. Much of her work is for various sports networks such as TSN & Sportsnet, covering the Winnipeg Jets & Winnipeg Blue Bombers. Other productions include corporate videos, commercials & mini-documentaries.

Before becoming a freelancer, Jane worked at CBC Winnipeg for 13 years, doing news gathering, mobile camera, as well as graphics.

Two of her career highlights are working at the curling venue for the 1998 Nagano Olympics and at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics covering the sliding events.

Jane got her start in video production in 1987, volunteering at Brandon's local cable channel.

She is a graduate of the Assiniboine Community College with a Broadcast Arts diploma.

Instructors and Panellists

Justina Neepin | *Production Coordinator/Member DGC - BIPOC Committee, DGC-MDC & The Indigenous Filmmaker's Association*

Panellist

Justina Neepin is a Cree producer and filmmaker living in Winnipeg, Manitoba and a graduate of the University of Manitoba. After winning the inaugural RBC Emerging Filmmaker pitch competition at Gimli Film Festival she formed a production company with her sister JJ Neepin called JJNEEPINFILMS. The pair have produced several short films that have played at national and international film festivals.

Justina is also the acting president of the Indigenous Filmmakers Association and one of the co-founders of the Indigenous Film Summit.
When Justina isn't working, she volunteers her time with the Winnipeg Indigenous Filmmakers Collective and the DGC BIPOC Members Committee.

She is a graduate of the Assiniboine Community College with a Broadcast Arts diploma.

Sarah Simpson-Yellowquill | *Program Manager, NSI*

Panellist

As program manager, Sarah works across many of NSI's courses, helps run the day-to-day activities of CBC New Indigenous Voices, the Tik Tok Accelerator Program, and provides production and mentorship support for NSI New Northern Voices.

Sarah is a multi-talented Indigenous woman, born and raised on Treaty 1 Territory, (Winnipeg, Manitoba). She is a filmmaker with extensive experience who is dedicated to her craft and has made multiple short films that have screened at North American festivals. She strives to create stories and to help others share their stories through the medium of filmmaking.
Sarah went from thinking filmmaking could only be a hobby to making it a full-time career for herself: as a production manager for various productions and working at the National Screen Institute.

She is also co-chair of the board of directors for WNDX Festival of Moving Images and Chair of the Winnipeg Film Group.

Day Two – Effective Strategies for Women in Film

Natasha Tony| *Founder and Principal, Elevate Inclusion Strategies*

Instructor

Founder and Principal of Elevate, Natasha Tony is a sought-after mediator, leadership coach, award winning trainer, and experienced labour relations specialist who has advanced the discussion on how to build inclusive organizations. With her commitment to intersectionality, Natasha goes beyond diversity programming and sets up organizations for true inclusion.

A graduate of the Labour Relations certificate program at Queen's University in Kingston, Natasha has rounded out her education through mediation, negotiation and coaching programs offered by the Justice Institute of British Columbia. Natasha's former career as an extras casting director piqued her interest in diversity. Subsequently, she held a labour relations role for almost a decade with IATSE (International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees), a union representing members of the film, television, and entertainment arts.

An acclaimed trainer and facilitator and leadership coach, Natasha is also a charismatic and much sought-after speaker and commentator on justice, equity, diversity and inclusion, and respectful workplaces.

Natasha works with organizations in the public and private sectors with a wide range of clients — from national cultural organizations, all levels of government, labour unions, small and medium sized businesses, and many not-for-profit social justice organizations.

Instructors and Panellists

Danielle Sturk| *Director, DGC-MDC, la Société des auteurs de radio, télévision et cinéma*

Moderator

Danielle Sturk is an award-winning bilingual Writer-Director whose audacity, creative vision, and versatility drive her work across genres since 2004. With a BA in Film from the University of Winnipeg, she has directed over 58 hours of nationally broadcast content in drama series, documentary series and features, as well as short experimental works and variety specials. Previously a professional dancer and choreographer, Danielle has been awarded over 30 arts council awards in film and dance.

She was awarded two Yorkton Film Festival's Golden Sheaf Awards for Best Experimental Film and Best Director (non-fiction), was nominated for a 2020 DGC Allan King Award for Excellence in Documentary for her hybrid documentary EL TORO, a 2021 DGC Outstanding Directorial Achievement in Dramatic Series for the detective series EDGAR, and received the Manitoba Film Hothouse Award for Creative Development in 2020.

She is currently in pre-production for her 6-part, one-hour dramatic series she is writing and will be directing with Radio Canada, and in post-production for her documentary POURQUOI? with NFB/ONF. Danielle is a member of the Directors' Guild of Canada, la Société des auteurs de radio, télévision et cinéma, le Front des réalisateurs indépendants du Canada, and On Screen Manitoba.

Rhonda Baker| *Producer, RGB Productions Inc./ D H Services Inc.*

Panellist

Rhonda Baker, RGB Productions Inc/D H Services Inc, has been working in the film and television industry for the past 30 years as a producer, line producer, supervising producer, and production manager. Rhonda has worked with several Studios and independent producers on feature films, television movies, and TV series filmed in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia and Quebec as well as a series shot in London, England and a limited series filmed entirely in Moscow, Russia. Rhonda has also worked on several International co-productions with partners from France, UK, Germany, Belgium and Spain.

Baker has produced feature films and television for Sony Pictures, Ghosthouse, Universal Studios, NetFlix and Lionsgate. Studio productions, The Messengers directed by Danny & Oxide Pang and The Grudge directed by Nick Pesce, both produced with highly respected Sam Raimi, exceeded $50 million US at the box office, and most recently Run directed by Aneesh Chaganty, also had amazing success streaming during the pandemic and both filmed entirely in Manitoba.

Baker's list of projects complete with star performers started with Russell Crowe (For The Moment) and continued with many stars such as Andy Garcia (Unsaid), Sarah Paulsen (Run), Ray Liotta (Ticket Out), Keanu Reeves (Siberia), Gary Oldman (Crisis), Ellen Burstyn (The Stone Angel), Christian Slater, Wes Bentley (Dolan's Cadillac), Sir Ben Kingsley (Night Hunter) and many other International, American and Canadian cast. As well, Baker had the honour of working alongside some outstanding directors including Internationally renowned Terry Gilliam and Canada's own Kari Skogland and Norma
Bailey. Baker has bragging rights about the number of female directors she has worked with during her career and at last count it was 16.

Baker continues to mentor with up and coming producers and delivers workshops for Film Training Manitoba, DGC, and the National Screen Institute.

Instructors and Panellists

Jamie Carnegie| *Executive Director, Manitoba Status of Women Secretariat*

Panellist

A member of the Manitoba Public Service since 2002, Jamie joined the Manitoba Status of Women Secretariat as Executive Director in May 2020. Beginning her career in Community Service Delivery with the Department of Families, Jamie has found her way through several departments and many interesting and challenging roles.

During her career, Jamie has worked in several program areas including; Employment and Income Assistance, Workforce Development, Apprenticeship Manitoba and in central government at the Cabinet office. Most recently, Jamie was the Senior Advisor to the Deputy Minister of Indigenous and Northern Relations. Each experience has been challenging and rewarding and has helped me find a path to taking on this leadership positon at the secretariat, developing expertise in strategic policy development, workforce development programming and cross-departmental collaboration.

Jamie is inspired by projects and initiatives that impact and improve a person's ability to fully engage in their life; in community, at work, at school or in their families. This has been reinforced through seeing the positive impact that training and workforce development projects have had on the lives of participants first hand. Being a small part of making a difference to someone's quality of life is amazing. Jamie is excited to continue to making positive changes for women while leading the secretariat.

Carol Paul| *Executive Director, The Manitoba Construction Sector Council*

Panellist

Carol Paul is the Executive Director at the Manitoba Construction Sector Council (MCSC). She holds a Bachelor and Master of Adult Education from the University of Manitoba and is a Certified Essential Skills Profiler through Bow Valley College. Carol facilitated English Literature, Alternative Education, Facilitating Adult Learning and Program Planning in the Faculty of Education and Continuing Education Divisions at the University of Manitoba and University of Winnipeg for 15 years. Carol was Managing Director at the Centre for Education and Work for 11 years where she managed national research, education and digital technology projects. She is a founding member of Urban Circle Training Centre, a holistic Indigenous Training Centre in Winnipeg, where she managed the adult learning centre for 14 years.

At MCSC, Carol is the Executive Director responsible for writing proposals, managing projects and coordination of the sector council's activities. She collaborates with industry, government, post-secondary institutions, Indigenous communities and immigrant supporting agencies to develop and deliver college accredited courses using the latest immersive technology. Carol is passionate about forming strong partnerships to address skill/training gaps in Manitoba's underrepresented communities.

Merit Jensen-Carr| *Executive Director, Merit Motion Pictures*

Panellist

Over the past 30 years, Merit Jensen-Carr has built her boutique company, Merit Motion Pictures, into a production powerhouse with a reputation for excellence and putting people first. The secret of her success lies in her passion for people, great films and stories that expand our knowledge of the human condition and reveal the beauty of the natural world, that transport us to place's unseen and challenge us to develop new ways of thinking.

Specializing in blue chip natural history, science and environmental films for international audiences, 2020 highlights include two co-productions with CAPA/Films A Cinq (France): Kingdom of the Polar Bears, a 90min/2x1hr special for National Geographic Channels, CBC, France 3, and Terra Mater Factual Studios and Reef Rescue, (winner of the 2020 Jackson Media Awards for Best Conservation Feature) for PBS NOVA, Vulcan, CBC and ARTE.

She is currently in production on season 4 of the hit Animal Planet series, Dr. Keri: Prairie Vet, Everest Dark a feature documentary for CBC's Documentary Channel and Great Lakes Untamed, a 3 x 1hr series for Smithsonian Channels, TVO, ARTE and Terra Mater Factual Studios.
Jensen Carr has served on numerous industry boards throughout her career including the Canadian Media Producers Association, the Documentary Organization of Canada and On Screen Manitoba. She is best known for cochairing the federally appointed Non-Theatrical Task Force with former Telefilm head, Francois Macerola.

A frequent co-producer on the international circuit, Jensen-Carr is fortunate to have access to the highest and most flexible tax credits in Canada.

Day Three – Leading in Conflict

Janine Higgins | *Instructor, Western Continuing Studies*

Instructor

Janine Higgins is an instructor with Western University and chartered mediator, a former corporate commercial lawyer, and an acclaimed training facilitator. She teaches courses for educational institutions, government, corporations, and organizations throughout Ontario and in several other provinces.

In 1994, Janine began conducting training for Western Continuing Studies, where she is the architect and principal instructor of conflict management.

Her courses revolve around many important work-related topics, such as: positive communication, emotional intelligence, assertiveness, and managing conflict in the workplace.

Instructors and Panellists

Nicole Loewen| *ACTRA Member/Registered nurse/COVID-19 Supervisior*

Moderator

Nicole Loewen has a Bachelors of Science in Nursing, with experience in various health care areas and clinical education.

Through working as an Actor, Filmmaker, and Covid Supervisor Nicole has witnessed first hand the physical and mental toll on film crew's health when a work/life balance isn't achieved, how much once affects the other, and more recently how Covid has influenced it.

Christina Kasperczyk| *Vice-President, ICG 669*

Panellist

Christina has also been extremely active within the industry serving on the executive board of IATSE 669 for 20 years, her most recent terms on the board as VP of BC District. She has also been working as a Trustee and Co-Chair with IATSE 667-669 Health and Welfare Trust for the last 13 years.

Alongside her ongoing success with motion picture cameras, she loves to give back, professionally and personally. Never afraid to call a spade a spade, she uses her own particular snappy style in her role as instructor to encourage the next generation of camera trainees with some very eye-opening stories. A believer in the community she uses her still photography to annually cover such events as, the inspirational "Ride to Conquer Cancer" and "Glamour Night", for the young women in the Oncology Unit at Children's Hospital.

She is proud to be a working woman in this industry and her mandate is to foster relationships and share information to continually raise the standard of our local professionals.

Instructors and Panellists

Laurenda Madill| *Acting Director, Workforce Development with the Department of Economic Development and Jobs*

Panellist

Laurenda Madill is the Acting Director of Industry Workforce Development with the Department of Economic Development and Jobs. Her career in government spans over 20 years in a variety of leadership roles with Mail Management Agency, Travel Manitoba and Industry Workforce Development. Program development and delivery and operations management are areas of expertise as well as human resource management and training.

In her personal life, Laurenda owns a small soap business with a life long friend, enjoys going to the lake in the summer and spending time with her family of 6, as well as their two dogs.

Beverlie Stuart| *Vice President, Business and Organizational Development, Manitoba Institute of Trades and Technology*

Panellist

Beverlie Stuart serves as the Vice President, Business and Organizational Development at MITT. She has over 30 years' experience in organizational leadership, career and workforce development, and strategic human resource planning and development. Her experience includes working in the public, private and the non-profit sector designing, developing and implementing initiatives and strategies for developing Manitoba's workforce.

Bev is the proud recipient of the 2021 Film Training Manitoba Award of recognition, 2018 Bill Schulz Lifetime Achievement Award in Career Development and 2016 Career Trek Champion Award.
Bev has served as a volunteer on numerous provincial and national boards and committees and is currently pursuing a Master of Arts in Leadership degree at Royal Roads University.