

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Vancouver's top aspiring leading ladies get a boost**

### ***Mentorship program for women actors kicks off this month in Vancouver***

**[January 16, 2017, Vancouver, BC]** – First launched in 2013 by actor, **Krista Magnusson**, Women in Film and Television Vancouver's (WIFTV) Actor Career Mentorship is back, providing women actors with advice, inspiration, and support as they work to advance their careers.

Developing a career as an actor can be both rewarding and frustrating. Magnusson explains that, "Aspiring actors often do everything they're 'supposed to' – training, honing their craft, creating their own work – but can't seem to move their career to the next level. Instead of wondering "what else should I be doing", this mentorship provides personal career guidance from someone who has built their own into a long-term success. "

The program matches successful applicants (mentees) who self-identify as women with working women actors (mentors), including celebrities like **Gabrielle Rose**, **April Telek-Cambell**, and **Carly Pope**. The pairs meet for one hour, once a month for six months, working through specific goals the mentees set for the program. Mentees often also receive insight on relationship building, branding & marketing, work/life balance, and networking opportunities. They are also required to complete a volunteer placement administered by WIFTV, completely outside the film industry, to as Magnusson puts it, "give back to the community that supports our industry all year".

WIFTV has been working towards gender parity in the film and television industry for nearly three decades. The group is encouraged by broadcasters' and agencies' recent commitments to address the imbalance.

"As the situation improves, we expect to see greater number and variety of roles open up for women," commented **Carolyn Combs**, executive director of Women in Film and Television Vancouver. "We know audiences want diversity and complexity in casting, and look forward to the industry shifting in this direction."

Applications were reviewed by a jury consisting of Magnusson (*Bloody Knuckles*, *Limitless*); producer, award-winning actor, and teacher, **Lori Triolo** (*Blackstone*, *Smallville*, *Lost Solace*); and executive producer and writer, **Simon Barry** (*Van Helsing*, *Continuum*). Fifteen applicants were accepted this year based on their initiative in both finding & creating their own work as well as attempting to solve their career challenges; clear and specific goals for the program leading to overall career goals; and various other criteria.

The program runs January to June 2017. First stop is a goal workshop with Aaron Hutchinson of Actors Business Collective this week, followed by an audition workshop by award-winning actor, Luvia Peterson, and a Casting Director workshop by top Vancouver Casting Director, Maureen Webb. Applications for the 2018 cohort open in October 2017.

#### **Program mentors (alphabetical)**

Agam Darshi

Anne Marie DeLuise

April Telek-Cambell

Brittney Wilson  
Beverley Elliott  
Carly Pope  
Catherine Lough-Haggquist  
Chelah Horsdal  
Christine Willes  
Gabrielle Rose  
Jennifer Spence  
Luvia Petersen  
Meghan Ory  
Sonja Bennett  
Tammy Gillis

**Program mentees (alphabetical)**

Anna Maria Demara  
Amelia Morris  
Ashley Ross  
Chelsey Moore  
Ellen MacNevin  
Jordana Largy  
Katharine Goodenow  
Kyrie Nunan-Jackson  
Laura Miller  
Lauren White  
Natalie Moon  
Quinnie Vu  
Sarah Kelley  
Shannon Kehler  
Tiffany Rice

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For more information or to arrange interviews with a mentor, mentee, or program coordinator Krista Magnusson, please contact:

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