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OCTOBER 26TH, 2020



## **WIFTV Whistler Film Festival Film Market Preparation Mentee Announced**

**Vancouver, BC** – Women in Film & Television Vancouver (WIFTV), in association with the Whistler Film Festival (WFF) is pleased to announce that **Sophie Kokott** is the recipient of the **2020 WIFTV Whistler Film Festival Film Market Preparation Mentorship Program**.

Sophie Kokott has been awarded the WIFTV Whistler Film Festival Film Market Preparation Mentorship for her project *Butter*. Sophie is a passionate Canadian filmmaker who works tirelessly to bring creative people together and push boundaries in order to tell unique stories. As one of the co-creators of Floor Thirteen Films she isn't one to wait around for opportunities, she makes them happen.

"I am incredibly excited for this opportunity to grow my skills as a filmmaker," Sophie expressed. "While I feel that my independent learning has provided me with a great base for how to navigate this crazy career path, I cannot wait to finally get some one-on-one time with an industry professional and take a deep dive into my creative process."

Sophie's experience working with film, theatre, and digital content, displays her love of the craft and creation of Canadian content. Her primary goal as a filmmaker is to tell stories that resonate with and represent audiences that are often overlooked or forgotten about. Focusing recently on telling queer female led stories. She has a voice, a story, and a perspective and wants nothing more than to share it with others.

Sophie will receive industry immersion at the Whistler Film Festival, as well as personalized coaching sessions with an experienced producer/mentor. This year's mentor is Tina Pehme, Creative Partner, Sepia Films, and co-founder of Honalee Entertainment. For the last two decades, Pehme has developed projects and

relationships internationally through her extensive work on US, Canadian and International co-productions. Pehme's background in production allows her to bring hands-on knowledge of physical production as well as the ability to anticipate production needs in a variety of budget ranges and co-production scenarios. As a partner at Sepia Films, Tina has developed, consulted and produced for both film and television in Canada, the US, India, the United Kingdom, China, South Africa, Ireland, Spain and Argentina.

"We are proud to collaborate with WIFTV and continue to address gender diversity in film, television and digital media," says Angela Heck, Managing Director of the Whistler Film Festival. "Through programs like these, we seek to achieve a more gender-balanced industry, on and off-screen, while elevating the voices of Canadian creators."

The WIFTV Whistler Film Festival Market Preparation Mentorship is going into its 9th consecutive year. Special thanks to the WIFTV Whistler Film Festival Mentorship jury which consisted of Carleen Kyle, President of the WIFTV Board of Directors and Writer/Director/Film School Lecturer; Naomi Ambrose, Director/Camera Operator/Editor, (*Winter Poetry Talkshow*) and founder of BrillyShine Entertainment Inc.; Petie Chalifoux, Writer/Producer, (*Bella's Story* for APTN); and Michelle Kee, VFX Producer at Crafty Apes VFX, (*Ghostbusters, The Terror*). The jury could not have been more pleased with their selection of *Butter*.

"Sophie's body of work and fresh voice put her in a great position to make *Butter* an irresistible coming-of-age story for generation Z," says Carleen Kyle. "Sophie's eagerness and excitement to participate in the mentorship was noticeable and commendable," adds Naomi Ambrose.

**The Whistler Film Festival Society** is a charitable cultural organization dedicated to furthering the art of film by providing programs that focus on the discovery, development and promotion of new talent culminating with a must attend festival for artists, industry and audiences in Whistler. Find out more at [whistlerfilmfestival.com](http://whistlerfilmfestival.com)

**Women In Film and Television Vancouver (WIFTV)** incorporated in 1989 as a not-for-profit society registered in British Columbia. We are a member driven organization committed to addressing the systemic barriers to women's equal participation in the production and dissemination of screen-based media, and to the creation of a more

inclusive media for both creators and audiences. We approach our goals by working with a range of partners to increase funding, employment, and promotional opportunities for women. We present and publicly celebrate the achievement of women in screen-based media, and offer professional and project development opportunities. We define women as those individuals who identify themselves within the spectrum of the gender identity of woman including trans women and cisgender women. We are located on the unceded traditional and ancestral homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

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