

AGM Report

From Our Dark Side Screenplay Genre Contest

By Program Mentors and WIFTV Board Members Peggy Thompson and Sharon McGowan

2019-2020 was the sixth iteration of the From Our Dark Side Genre Competition. It happened both in person and virtually. In person, at our Women in Film Festival in Vancouver in March, and virtually in July when Covid had shut down the country and travel to Montreal and the Frontieres Film Market wasn't possible.

This year's winners were Julia Rowland (Toronto), Cat Girczyc (Vancouver), Lauren Marsden (Vancouver), Selaine Henrikson (Ottawa) and Marie Clements (Galiano Island, BC).

In March, our winners received a series of workshops at our film festival (in person) with filmmakers like Karen Lam (The Curse of Willow Song), Lauren Grant (Riot Girls), Lori Lozinski (The Body Remembers When the World Broke Open), Bo Wen Xi from Reality Distortion Field, international pitch coach Helene Granqvist and others.

After the festival they worked with story editors on their treatments and with designers on their promotional materials, and with Annelise Larson on branding and promotion. They also worked with Jan Miller on pitching.

In July the five winners pitched virtually at the Frontieres Film Market. And they also had one on one meetings via zoom broadcasters, producers and industry players from Canada and around the world.

A very special thank you to our Sponsors Creative BC, Super Channel and Telefilm Canada.

And now some news about the future, after six successful years of the program focusing on Early Project Development (taking a project from outline to treatment and doing market research at Frontieres), we decided it was time to move to a more Advanced Development model working to support completed screenplays with producers and directors attached and ready for financing.

To direct the program this coming year and to work with the winners, we are extremely fortunate to have secured the leadership of Lindsay Peters, the former director of Frontieres and the creator of their innovative, Directed by Women program.

