

Tricksters and Writers

AGM Report - April 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020

Between April 1- March 31, 2020, Tricksters and Writers operated in three areas: North Island, Vernon and Kamloops and Vancouver. The program was delivered over three phases: workshops and instructional sessions; story editing sessions; actor table read workshops.

The program aims to increase the participation of Indigenous women in screen-based media and offers an opportunity for Indigenous women from all backgrounds and levels of experience to share their stories and to network with each other.

Two one day workshops were offered in the North Island (April and August) to complete phase one which had started the previous year.

Four two-day workshops were offered in Vernon and Kamloops as phase one. These were offered in April, June, September and October.

In Vancouver, phase one was offered through Sunday afternoon workshops from April through June.

A Meet the Funders session was offered in the in the fall where representatives from Telefilm, NFB, Bell Media, Knowledge Network , Creative BC and APTN participated.

Participants of phase one of the three programs include:

1. Lindsay McIntyre
2. Jules Koostachin
3. Terreane Derrick
4. Kelly Roulette
5. Brenda prince
6. Shaelyn Johnston
7. Angela Cooper
8. Elise Raye
9. Priscilla Omulo
10. Courtenay Crane
11. Sarah Kelley
12. Michele Mundy
13. Andrea Andrew
14. Carmen Thompson
15. Wendy Geddes
16. Leah Flagg
17. CJ Rice
18. Esther Winder
19. Melisa Fraser
20. Mariel Belanger

21. Dawn Tonks
22. Sandra lynxleg
23. Wendy Landry
24. Yvonne Dixon
25. Debra Butler
26. Michelle Ikwumonu
27. Jody Royce
28. Jennifer Narcisse

Two writers completed first drafts in time to participate in phase two and three of the program: Jules Koostachin (Vancouver) and Dawn Tonks (Kamloops). Eva Thomas was the story editor for phase two. Phase three took place during the Vancouver International Women in Film Festival where the table reads were open to festival audiences. Actors included: Asivak Koostachin, Madeline Kenoras, Olivia Lucas, Quelemina Sparrow, Raes Calvert, Sam Bob, Siobhan Barker and Bronson Pellitier. Workshop leaders were David Geary and Renae Morriveau.

Six more writers have continued into phase two and three of the program this year.

The program was founded by Doreen Manuel, Peggy Thompson and Carolyn Combs. Instructors included Doreen Manuel, Peggy Thompson and Petie Chalifoux. Jessie Anthony was the outreach coordinator.

The programs were funded by Matrix Production Services, Creative BC, the Canadian Media Producers Association – BC Producers Branch, Telus Storyhive, BC Arts Council, Vancouver Island North Film Commission, Indigenous Digital Filmmaking Program of Capilano University and The Bosa Centre Capilano University. Thompson River University and the Thompson Nicola Film Commission provided in-kind support and Final Draft offered free screen writing software.

The Vancouver International Women in Film Festival (VIWFF)

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VIWFF 2020 managed to take place in person at the Vancity Theatre just prior to the first wave of the pandemic from March 3- , 2020. 44 excellent films from 18 countries were screened representing a diversity of women's voices.

As well as film screenings the festival offered: two advocacy panel discussions examining federal and provincial actions toward addressing the lack of gender parity and inclusivity in the film and television industry; an opening night celebration following the screening of Red Snow by Marie Clements that included live musical performances by Indigenous and Afghani musicians as well as Afghani cuisine; the presentation of two virtual reality pieces, two workshops, pitch sessions, post screening discussions; artist talks, a moderated panel discussion with Doreen Manuel and Chief Judy Wilson, moderated by Jules Koostachin after the screening of Unceded Chiefs by Doreen Manuel; two networking receptions; a special International Women's Day discussion with the Helen Granqvist (President of WIFT International); a

moderated panel discussion with Valeria Selinger and Carmen Aguirre moderated by Joanne Walton after the screening of *The Rabbit's House* by Valeria Selinger; an International Screenplay Competition; and Awards Ceremony and a Closing Gala with DJ Adia.

We were pleased to launch our From Our Dark Side program at the festival, to present the Tricksters and Writers actor table read workshops and to host WIDC CAM participants.

While being chock full of events and screenings, the festival maintained its intimacy and continued its tradition of offering an important platform for the presentation and discussion of contemporary work by women filmmakers and the context in which they work, as well as providing an environment to connect, to find collaborators and to be inspired.

Press coverage of the festival was greater than in previous years and while the festival was highly successful, attendance was down. We attribute this to a growing awareness of the virus and the public health warnings that began to emerge during the festival.

VIWFF 2020 was supported by: the Department of Canadian Heritage, the BC Arts Council, Telefilm Canada, Creative BC, the City of Vancouver, Capilano University, the Canadian Media Producers Association – BC Producers Branch, Matrix Production Services, Canadian Cinema Editors, Canadian Federation of Music, CFA, DGC – BC, Elevate Inclusion Strategies, IATSE Local 891, Integral Artists, ICG, Luas Talent, Pacific Backlot, UBCP/ACTRA, Sim Digital, C2 Imaging, Georgia Straight, ACFC, VIFF, Line 21, Mystique Films, Stripe Graphics and many other in-kind and community partners.

VIWFF could not have been possible without the contributions of the film evaluation team, many volunteers and interns.