



The Tricksters and Writers Team

Doreen Manuel (Program Development/Advisor/Instructor – All Programs):

Doreen is a respected Secwepemc/Ktunaxa First Nations filmmaker, as well as the Director of the Nat and Flora Bosa Centre for Film & Animation. She is the sixth child of Grand Chief Dr. George Manuel and Marceline Manuel. Doreen is a graduate of the Aboriginal Film and Television Diploma Program at Capilano University and is the recipient of the Governor General of Canada Bronze Medal Award for Academic Excellence for her studies in AFTP. She has an extensive background working in First Nations education and community development in both rural and urban centres.

Doreen comes from a long line of oral historians and factual storytellers from her First Nations traditional background. She has experience directing for television and was the Canadian Correspondent for the Native Heartbeat a USA Native American news magazine program. She spent 13 years as the Coordinator/Instructor of the Indigenous Independent Digital Filmmaking program at Capilano University. She is a Matriarch with the IM4 virtual reality program and sits on the Knowledge Network Board of Directors. She also owns and operates Running Wolf Productions. Doreen is also a Telefilm Partner with the Micro-Budget Indigenous Category. Her goal is to see more feature films produced in the First Nations community, which address the issues of First Nations people. She also has a strong interest in incubating an authentic First Nations, Metis, and Inuit voice in film storytelling as well as an authentic process of production that represents cultural values of respectful work ethic.

Peggy Thompson (Program Development/Advisor): Peggy is a proven screenwriter and producer best known for the award-winning feature films, “The Lotus Eaters” and “Better than Chocolate”. She has also written and produced many short films. Her films have been broadcast on major networks and played festivals worldwide. She is a two-time former President of Women in Film and Television Vancouver and has served on the Advocacy Committee since its inception. She is a Professor Emerita of UBC’s Creative Writing Program and has served on the Board of Directors of The Queer Film Festival. She is currently the Program Advisor for the From Our Dark Side Screenplay Genre Competition, which is a national competition for genre screenwriters run by Women in Film and Television Vancouver. She was one of three producers on the recent documentary film, “Bearded Ladies: the Photography of Rosamond Norbury.”

Carolyn Combs (Program Director): Carolyn is the Executive Director of WIFTV. As well as a filmmaker, she holds a Masters of Education degree with a specialization in Curriculum Studies. She is responsible both for evolution and implementation of the Tricksters and Writers program.

Shaelyn Johnston (Program Coordinator/Instructor – Northern BC): Shaelyn is an award-winning Anishinaabe and Irish-Canadian writer from Vancouver, BC. She writes predominantly for screen but also enjoys creative non-fiction, and uses both genres as a way to explore her culture and the relationships we have with one another. In 2015, she was a recipient of the Governor General's History Award for her short story, “Anishinaabemowin”, which also placed first in Historica Canada’s Indigenous Arts & Stories Contest. In 2019, she won first place in Room Magazine’s Creative Non-Fiction Contest for her piece, “Back

Home”, and completed her short film, “The Healing Dance” through Telus Storyhive’s Indigenous Storyteller Edition. She was one of five filmmakers chosen to attend the ImagineNATIVE Film Festival in Toronto through the Telus/ImagineNATIVE Film Fellowship and was also recently selected as a 2020 Netflix-BANFF Diversity of Voices participant. A 2019 participant of the Vancouver Tricksters and Writers program, she is now working through her MFA in Creative Writing through the University of British Columbia.

Petie Chalifoux (Instructor – Thompson-Nicola & North Island): Petie is a Cree filmmaker from Northern Alberta. She considers film a powerful and creative medium to shed light upon the realities of the social issues that surround the world we live in today from an Indigenous perspective. Petie graduated with her Bachelor of Motion Picture Arts in January 2017 and was the very first Indigenous Valedictorian for Capilano University’s convocation in June 2017. One of her recent works, which will have its world premiere screening at the San Francisco American Indian Film Festival in early November 2018, is a dramatic film titled, “Nîsowak”, in which Petie worked as a writer, producer and director. Petie’s first feature film, “River of Silence”, screened at the Vancouver International Women in Film Festival in 2018.

Jessie Anthony (Outreach Coordinator – Thompson-Nicola, North Island, Vancouver): Jessie is a Haudenosaunee woman from the Onondaga Nation and a member of Beaver Clan from Six Nations of the Grand River Territory, Ontario. Storytelling is how she connects to her traditional roots, and is the lens with which she her life. Through film, she speaks to the reality of Indigenous peoples on Turtle Island. By honouring the strengths, weaknesses, unity, and identity of her people, she aims to represent their stories with authenticity and to serve them through the creation of art. She is graduate of Vancouver Film School’s Acting for Television & Film Program as well as a graduate of Capilano University’s Indigenous Independent Filmmaking Program with a focus on directing, cinematography & scriptwriting. Jessie is in post-production on her first feature film, Brother, I Cry.