

Women in Film and Television – Atlantic Programming Review 2019 - 2020



Contact Us:

Phone: (902) 497-9232

Email: info@wift-at.com

www.wift-at.com



Women in Film
and Television
Atlantic

Thank You to our Supporters

Women in Film and Television - Atlantic (WIFT-AT) works hard to fully represent female-identifying screen industry professionals from all of the Atlantic provinces. Our goal is to actively engage our members by delivering diverse programming in a variety of locations throughout the year. We are striving to provide a safe, educational environment and to be a welcoming organization open to all genders.

As 2019 - 2020 was WIFT-AT's 10th Anniversary, we embarked on a new look to take us forward for the next 10 years. We launched our new branding and you will see our new logo and brand colours throughout the coming pages.

This is our opportunity to extend a heartfelt thanks to our celebrated supporters. Because of them, we can offer events and awards that are empowering women to shape their careers as filmmakers. Our biggest event of the year, the Women Making Waves Conference impacts filmmakers of all genders and levels of experience by giving them access to industry professionals through sessions and conversations that can set the course for their next endeavours.

As you look through this review, please keep in mind how grateful we are to our wonderful supporters!

*Jan Miller, WIFT-AT
Founding Chair
and Kimberlee
McTaggart, WIFT-
AT Chair.*

*Photo by Claire
Fraser.*



Thank You to Our Sponsors

Luminary



Visionary



Celebrity



Star



Thank You to Our Sponsors

Film Festival Partners



Community Partners



Fan



Pal

- Lunenburg Doc Fest • Gallagher Insurance • MAC east
- Tell Tale Productions • HRM Richard Zurawski • Idlewild Films

Champion

- Lowenbe Holdings



WIFT-AT recognizes the support of the Province of Nova Scotia. We are pleased to work in partnership with the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage to develop and promote our cultural resources for all Nova Scotians.

2019-2020 Programming

Best Director Award

May 2019

WIFT-AT honours the outstanding achievement of a female director based in Nova Scotia. Female directors from across the province are creating outstanding screen-based projects. We want to recognize and celebrate these remarkable artists and projects by shining a light on one accomplished filmmaker who is highly deserving of recognition. The award is presented at the annual Screen Nova Scotia Gala Awards ceremony in Halifax. The 2019 recipient was Jackie Torrens. Jackie is a Halifax-based actor, writer and film director. She is also the co-owner of Peep Media, a documentary production company.



2019 Best Director Award recipient, Jackie Torrens.

All Access Pass Award

June 2019

The All Access Pass Award (AAPA) is bestowed annually by WIFT-AT to a deserving woman working in screen-based media. We welcome applications from women working in film, television, and/or digital media. The AAPA is designed to allow the recipient to travel to ten film festivals in Atlantic Canada, and there are numerous additional perks:

- \$1,500 cash to be used for travel expenses
- One-year annual membership to WIFT-AT
- One delegate pass to the WIFT-AT Women Making Waves Conference
- Facilitation for one-on-one meetings with senior WIFT-AT members
- Profile feature and photo in the WIFT-AT Tidings Newsletter

In 2019, the All Access Pass Award recipient was Tamar Jacoba Dina.

WIFT-AT AGM and Industry Networking Social

June 21, 2019

The WIFT-AT 2018-2019 Annual General Meeting included the election of the Board of Directors for 2019-2021. Held at the Atlantic Filmmakers Co-operative in Halifax, the proceedings for the second year in a row were live-streamed to members in all four provinces. Members who attended in person were able to enjoy an industry networking social immediately following the meeting.

Board Strategy Session

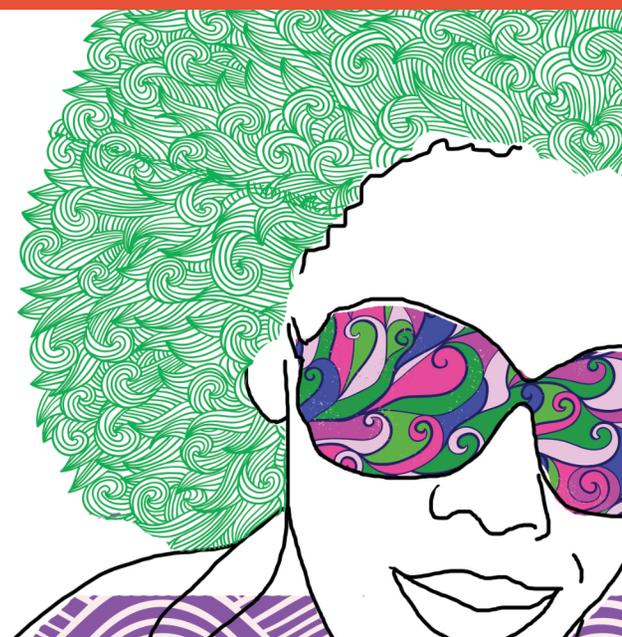
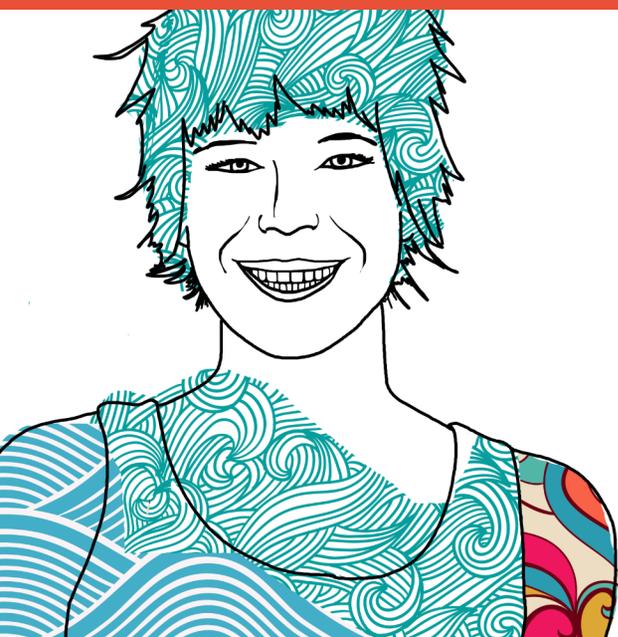
August 2019

In the summer of 2019, WIFT-AT held a Board focused strategic planning session in Halifax. The goal of the day-long session was to assess where we are as an organization, what we provide to the community, what we could potentially provide and look at the issue of sustainability. One of the biggest strengths that emerged was that WIFT-AT has maintained stability for ten years despite a lack of operational funding. It has provided programming and has steadily improved the programs it delivers. It has also been successful in raising the level of sponsorship. WIFT-AT has proven success in its ability to inspire, to connect and to advance the careers of women in media arts and has the opportunity to build upon that success. While lack of supportive staffing has limited our growth, the organization is making an impact relative to its resources. Members see this. WIFT-AT's main strength is that it continues to increase its value to its members and to its sponsors.

WIFT-AT Sponsored Film at the FIN: Atlantic International Film Festival

September 14, 2019

Each year WIFT-AT sponsors a female-focused film being shown at the FIN: Atlantic Film Festival. In 2019, WIFT-AT was pleased to sponsor the film *The Rest of Us* with veteran producer Aisling Chin-Yee (Rhymes for Young Ghouls, *Lost Generation*). *The Rest of Us* marked Ms. Chin-Lee's directorial debut and was shown at Parklane Cineplex with Ms. Chin-Lee in attendance.



Annual WIFT-AT Mussel Bar Reception at FIN Atlantic International Film Festival

September 14, 2019

Co-hosted by 902 Post, WIFT-AT was pleased to host the annual Mussel Bar Reception during the FIN: Atlantic International Film Festival for the fourth year. Held at 902 Post, this fun event is always a must-attend for all



the folks during the festival week. The guests enjoyed wine and beer refreshments along with the mouth-watering bowls of fresh-steamed mussels. Guests had plenty of time to hit the reception and take in WIFT-AT's sponsored featured film, *The Rest of Us* with director Aisling Chin-Yee and written by Alanna Francis.

writing small

October 2019 - January 2020

The Atlantic Filmmakers Cooperative, in partnership with Women in Film and Television - Atlantic, presented "writing small," a program focused on writing screenplays specifically for micro-budget narrative films. The program took place over the course of three months. Participants were guided through the process of taking their film idea from synopsis to script.

The program is aimed at assisting potential applicants to the Telefilm Talent to Watch micro-budget feature film competition (for which both AFSCOOP and WIFT-AT are nominating partner organizations). There were a total of ten participants and half of the seats were reserved for female-identifying individuals.

The Salute Award and WIFT-AT Brunch at the Charlottetown Film Festival

October 2019

The annual Salute Award is sponsored by WIFT-AT and awarded at the Charlottetown Film Festival at the annual WIFT-AT Brunch. The award celebrates the achievements of a PEI-based filmmaker both in her own work and for her conscientious efforts to raise the standard of filmmaking across the province. In 2019, Emma Fugate received the Salute Award for her contribution to the growth of film and television in the Maritimes.

Annual WIFT-AT Member Breakfast at the St. John's International Women's Film Festival

October 2019

The second annual breakfast was hosted at Rocket Bakery in St. John's Newfoundland. The event was hosted by International Consultant Jan Miller and WIFT-AT Board members Emily Bridger and Karen Roberts. The event was complimentary for members and a guest.

The Silver Wave Award at the Silver Wave Film Festival

November 2019

Held during the annual Silver Wave Film Festival in Fredericton, New Brunswick, the WIFT -AT Silver Wave Award recognizes excellence in the cinematic arts and the significant contribution to the development of the film and television community. In 2019, the recipient of the Silver Wave Award was Arianna Martinez, the producer and production designer of the short film Unofficial Selection.

More Real Women, More Real Stories

December 17, 2019

This workshop and networking event was so popular in 2018, it was repeated for 2019. Held at the Bus Stop Theatre in Halifax, the panel discussion featured four talented local women working in the screen arts: producer and director Teresa MacInnes; actor, director, writer and producer Koumbie; editor Kimberlee McTaggart; and producer Karen Wentzell. The panel was moderated by another accomplished woman, writer, producer



Photo by Maude Rivard-Haustrate.

and director, Donna Davies of Ruby Tree Films. The 90-minute panel included an open and honest conversation about the panellists' work, pivotal moments in their careers and their experiences as women working in the screen industry. The panel explored the biases and constraints some of the panellists have experienced in the industry and showed the need for more work to be done to foster gender parity and inclusion in the industry. The panel wrapped up with a lively Q&A session and then attendees kept the conversation going at a reception.

New Waves Workshop Series

January 30 – March 7, 2020



New Waves is a workshop-based initiative that offers women the opportunity to learn more about working professionally in the screen industry. Presented by CTV, the series is comprised of five workshops, each facilitated by industry professionals, who share their knowledge and experience with 10 emerging female-identifying filmmakers.

The sessions cover a wide range of skills: screenwriting, producing, directing, editing, and documentary filmmaking. This series is offered by WIFT-AT to empower emerging filmmakers, so they feel able to pursue their interest and perhaps a career in film, television or digital media.

Halifax Black Film Festival Diversity On & Off Screen Series: Black Women in Film

February 29, 2019

WIFT-AT partnered with the Halifax Black Film Festival to co-present the Black Women in Film panel. It was a powerful discussion on the challenges facing Black women in the independent film industry. Through a historical chronology, this panel highlighted the evolution of the black woman within the cinema's independent practices.



Workshops

March 6, 2020

Immediately prior to the tenth annual Women Making Waves Conference, WIFT-AT offered four in-depth workshops covering sound design, career strategy, editing and creating a tv show for an international audience.

A Sound is Worth a Thousand Words with Jane Tattersall

Outstanding sound design can propel any film to a new level, bringing the audience an unforgettable sonic experience. Jane Tattersall of Sim Post Toronto showed workshop attendees how to use sound to convey what words and images can't.

Really? I'd never Considered That! - A Career Strategy Session with Sharon McGowan

This workshop was for emerging filmmakers and screenwriters and provided insightful strategies for building a sustainable career.

The Art of the Edit with Wiebke von Carolsfeld

Presented with the support of the Canadian Cinema Editors and the Directors Guild of Canada - Atlantic Regional Council, award-winning filmmaker Wiebke von Carolsfeld covered how you can take a sea of footage and refine it into a cohesive and impactful narrative.

How to Create a Binge-Worthy Show in the Era of Global Streaming with Amy Cameron

This workshop explored the secrets to surviving and thriving in television drama from the executive producer behind an inspiring range of internationally acclaimed TV shows.



*Spotlight
Conversation
with Meredith
MacNeill:
Playing the
Game While
Changing the
Game.*

*Photo by
Claire Fraser.*

10th Annual Women Making Waves Conference

March 6-7, 2020 – Halifax, NS

According to the responses on the exit survey, the 10th annual Women Making Waves Conference was the best one yet. WIFT-AT welcomed almost 300 delegates to the Hotel Halifax. The two-day Conference offered panel discussions, networking opportunities, screenings and workshops on a host of topics. The Conference attracts highly-skilled writers, producers, actors, and filmmakers at the top of their game to lead one-of-a-kind, not-to-be-missed panels, spotlight conversations, and workshops.

Friday, March 6 Highlights

- **Screening of *nîpawistamâsowin: We Will Stand Up* and Q&A with Director Tasha Hubbard** Presented by the Directors Guild of Canada
- **The Opening Reception** Presented by the Directors Guild of Canada

Saturday, March 7 Highlights

- **Spotlight Conversation with Meredith MacNeill: Playing the Game While Changing the Game**
- ***nîpawistamâsowin: We Will Stand Up* Case Study with Tasha Hubbard** Presented with support from the National Film Board
- **Hell Hath No Fury: Elevating Women in Horror Writing with Nikki Saltz** Presented by the Harold Greenberg Fund
- **Keynote Address with Sharon McGowan: Keep the Wave Going**
- **The Path of Directors: Breaking Boundaries with panellists Heather Young, Megan Wennberg, Nicole Steeves, Jackie Torrens and moderated by Donna Davies** Presented by Telefilm Canada
- **Music and Image Make Magic with Director Deanne Foley, Composer Duane Andrews and Editor Wiebke von Carolsfeld**
- **The Mystery of Line Producing ... Solved with Ginny Jones Duzak, Jenipher Ritchie and Elizabeth Guildford and moderated by Janet Hawkwood**

“Women Making Waves is an incredibly inspiring, informative and nurturing initiative, bringing together women from all levels of the industry to promote what we have been so sorely missing for too long: stories told by women!” - 2020 Conference Attendee

2020 Pitch Competition Presented by CBC

The Pitch Competition is a highlight of the annual Women Making Waves Conference when WIFT-AT members are given the opportunity to pitch their short film concepts. This year, in a surprise announcement by CBC Vice-President, Stewart Young, the winner was awarded \$10,000 cash in addition to in-kind services from 902 Post, Hideout Studios, and William F. White International Inc.

The winner of the competition is announced during the Conference's WAVE Awards dinner. The 2020 recipient of the Pitch Competition was Tracey Lavigne for her film Travelog.



CBC's Stewart Young (left) and Angela Antle (right) presenting Tracey Lavigne (centre) with her prize package as winner of the 2020 CBC Pitch Contest.

Photo by Claire Fraser.

WAVE Award Celebration Dinner Presented by IoM Media Ventures

WIFT-AT wrapped its hugely successful tenth annual Women Making Waves Conference by announcing the 2020 WAVE Award Recipients to a packed house. The WAVE Award honours outstanding contributions by women in film, television and screen-based media in Atlantic Canada. This year, the awards were presented to Deanne Foley, Kimberlee McTaggart, and the transportation team duo Kristin Arason and Debi Jonatanson.

WAVE Award recipients Debi Jonatanson, Kristin Arason, Kimberlee McTaggart, and Deanne Foley.

Photo by Claire Fraser.



Talent to Watch Program

March 2020

Telefilm's Talent to Watch Program is a production opportunity for first-time feature filmmakers. Telefilm provides financing for the development, production, digital distribution and promotion of a feature-length film or a narrative-based web series. WIFT-AT is eligible to recommend one feature film and one narrative web-based project for both the Main Component and the Indigenous Component. Recommendations from across the country then go to a national jury for selection of up to 50 projects.

In 2020, the WIFT-AT jury selected Writer/ Director Tara Thorne and Producer Nicole Steeves' feature film, *Compulsus*, to recommend for Telefilm Canada's 2020 Talent to Watch Program.

2020 also saw the release of "I Hear You", a web-series by WIFT-AT members Amy Trefry and Koumbie. "I Hear You" was our recommended project in 2018 and was successfully awarded a Talent to Watch production grant.



What's Next for WIFT-AT?

For WIFT-AT's second decade, we will continue to offer inspiring and relevant programming to our members. We will build on the success of the 2020 Women Making Waves Conference and plan to explore new opportunities in partnership with like-minded individuals and organizations.

Recognizing that mentorship is one of the most immediate and supportive opportunities to move ahead in one's career, WIFT-AT will introduce its new Mentor Match program in 2020. Many of our members have identified a need for a mentorship program. This opportunity will provide members at different levels of experience the formalized opportunity to learn from, guide, and support each other through a series of focused one-on-one and possible group meet-ups over a nine-month period. This project will match industry mentors with aspiring filmmakers for a rewarding relationship to foster professional growth within the industry. The program begins in June 2020.

Additionally, WIFT-AT hopes to launch Reel Talk, a Halifax series of monthly gatherings and in-depth conversations with significant women in the Nova Scotia screen industry. WIFT-AT is also looking at re-launching The Breakfast Club, a networking continental breakfast featuring brief, informal presentations by industry leaders followed by a Q&A session.



Photo by Claire Fraser.