



BC's Five in Focus: Animation Team Announced

Vancouver– (December 71, 2018) Women in Animation Vancouver and Women in View are please to announce BC's Five in Focus: Animation team [see bios below].

Amanda Konkin, *Producer*
Stephanie Blakey, *Director*
Jen Davreux, *Writer*
Kaitlin Sutherland, *Animation Director*
Maisha Moore, *Art Director*

BC's Five in Focus: Animation participants are selected by an esteemed panel of jurors representing both the broadcast and production communities.

"WIA Vancouver is thrilled with the quality and number of applications. The candidates are thoughtful, experienced and understanding of this amazing opportunity" said Rose-Ann Tisserand, Chair of WIA Vancouver. "As an added bonus, applicants were evenly spread across the five key creative roles that WIA Vancouver is looking to advance and empower in our pursuit of gender equity."

"I can't wait to work with the other women selected for the Five in Focus Program. Women in View is a fantastic organization doing great things for women in media across Canada, and I know that this opportunity in partnership with Women in Animation is going to be life changing for my career," said Amanda Konkin, the selected Five in Focus producer. "I am so grateful to get the chance to learn from the amazing mentors working with this organization and step into such an important role with the support and encouragement of this community."

BC's Five in Focus: Animation is an innovative new program designed by WIA Vancouver and Women in View to advance gender equity in the animation industry. Or change what was there. The Five represent the key creative positions in animation, positions in which women have been traditionally underrepresented and where WIA has sought to increase representation. The program will help to significantly advance these women's careers through extensive mentorship from the WIA community, exposure to a wide range of industry activities, master classes, pitch training and more. The program also provides a budget so that over the course of a year, the participants can develop and produce an animated short film that will premiere at Spark 2019.

The original Five in Focus was launched by Women in View in 2017 to illustrate the depth and diversity of female talent by shining a spotlight on five women. The program was designed to bring together producers, broadcasters and decision-makers to identify and promote women in Canadian screen-based media.

BC's Five in Focus: Animation is supported by Telus, Creative BC, Telefilm Canada, CMPA-BC with additional sponsorship by NFB and Spark.

BC's Five in Focus: Animation 2018



Amanda Konkin, Producer

Amanda Konkin has a masters degree from the University of British Columbia, and after a decade producing in theatre and digital media she transitioned into Film and Television in 2013. In the spring of 2015, Amanda co- produced a Leo-Nominated TV series for OUTtv called *The Switch* (2016), the world's first transgender sitcom. She also produced the short films *Dude, Where's My Ferret?* (2015) and *Singer Sisters* (2016), as well as the Storyhive award winning webseries pilot *Silk* (2015). In 2013, she created and produced a webseries amassing over 2 hours of episodic content called *Blank Verse*, about William Shakespeare as a modern day university student.

Amanda is currently a Production Manager in animation at Rainmaker Studios, a Division of WOW! Unlimited Media Inc. She previously worked as the Associate Production Manager on the Netflix original series *Reboot: The Guardian Code* (March 2018) and as a production coordinator on *Surfs Up 2: Wavemania* (Sony, 2017).



Stephanie Blakey, Director

Stephanie Blakey is an award-winning, Vancouver-based animation director and storyboard artist. She received her Master's Degree in Directing Animation from the National Film and Television School in England and her Bachelor's Degree in Animation from the Emily Carr University of Art and Design in Canada. Additional training took her to La Poudrière in France, and the Animation Lab at the Edinburgh International Film Festival in Scotland. Her animated short, "The Last Resort," has played in over two dozen festivals, winning several awards including the Audience Award at the Austin Film Festival and a Best of the Fest Selection from Palm Springs International Shortfest. An animated intro for the online Vice series, "Brits", which she wrote, directed, animated, and scored, won the Graphite Pencil Award in the Design & Art Direction New Blood Awards. Another short film of hers, "Love-o-Rama", was selected and screened as part of the NFTS Stars of Tomorrow Event. She currently works as a storyboard artist at Atomic Cartoons in Vancouver.



Jen Davreux, Writer

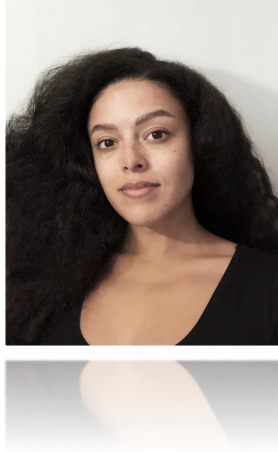
Jen Davreux is a storyboard supervisor, independent comic artist and writer. Originally from a small town in the Okanagan, she developed a passion for drawing and storytelling at a young age, later moving out to Vancouver to pursue a career in animation. Her first self-published comic *Astronaut + Alien* debuted at VanCAF in 2015, and she currently co-writes an ongoing webcomic titled *Go, Titan XI!*. She has been working in the story department of various animated shows for the past 5 years and looks forward to taking on new creative challenges.



Kaitlin Sutherland, Animation Director

Kaitlin Sutherland's life changed for the better when she discovered people could make animation for a living. Inspired by the limitless possibilities of the art form and its endless storytelling opportunities, Kaitlin dove in headfirst and thrived at the animation program at the prestigious Sheridan College. Animating on her first short film, with a group of her peers, "Natalie," was selected to be screened on all Air Canada flights in 2014 via the Air Canada enRoute Film Festival and her personal short film, "The Tale," went on to be a finalist at the Davis International Film Festival.

Thanks to her passion for animation and eye quality, Kaitlin quickly rose through the ranks in her professional career from layout artist to animation supervisor- a welcome challenge where she is currently excelling and constantly learning. Despite the time needed for her day job, Kaitlin's passion extends well beyond that: she animates in her own time, participating in successful collaborative online projects as well as creating her own self-directed pieces. When she's not thinking up unique stories or effortlessly designing a multitude of characters, Kaitlin can be found snuggling up with a tea and getting lost in the vibrant worlds and stories made possible through animation in Vancouver, B.C.



Maisha Moore, Art Director

Maisha Moore is a production designer and illustrator living in lush Vancouver BC. Influenced by a childhood full of story books and a family tree of artists, Maisha was inspired to pursue a career in the arts. After graduating from Capilano University, Maisha settled into Vancouver's vibrant animation industry, where, over the course of the last decade, she has worked on a multitude of projects, both episodic and feature. Her skills and passions cross over a breadth of production departments. Currently, Maisha is working at Cinesite Vancouver on The Addams Family feature as a lead in the production's design team. Outside of her day job, Maisha collects oddities and travels to national parks.

About:

Women in View

Women in View is a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to strengthening gender and racial diversity in Canadian media both on screen and behind the scenes through a range of initiatives that seek to generate awareness, promote talent and spark dialogue across the full spectrum of production, policy and artistic arenas. The WIV Board of Directors includes women from across Canada working in a broad spectrum of industry roles.

Women in Animation

Women in Animation (WIA) envisions a world in which women share fully in the creation, production and rewards of animation, resulting in richer and more diverse entertainment and media that move our culture forward. The mission of WIA is to bring together a global community of animation professionals to empower and support women in the art, science and business of animation by increasing access to resources, creating opportunities for education, encouraging strong connections between individuals, and inspiring excellence.

For more information, contact:

Rose-Ann Tisserand
Chair, WIA Vancouver
rose-ann@flyingkraken.com
604-218-4598

Amber-Sekowan Daniels
General Manager, Women in View
mailto:amber@womeninview.ca
416-304-9398

