

EMBARGO until February 1st 2018

“Five in Focus: Atlantic” Directors Announced

OTTAWA (February 1, 2018) – [Women in View](#) announced the selected directors for the [“Five in Focus: Atlantic”](#) initiative at CMPA's Prime Time in Ottawa today.

Launched at Prime Time in 2017 as a three year initiative, **Five in Focus** illustrates the depth and diversity of directing talent by shining a spotlight on five women directors, each year. The program was designed to bring together producers and broadcasters to identify and promote Canadian women media creators.

“**Five in Focus** was one of the most professionally gratifying experiences for me. It was instrumental in helping me sign with an agent as well as getting me in front of producers which resulted in my first TV directing gigs.” said director Gloria Ui Young Kim, one of the 2017 Five in Focus directors. “This invaluable spotlight helped me to advance my career in the most meaningful way.”

For year two, [Women in View](#) has partnered with [Women in Film and Television-Atlantic](#) and Telefilm Canada to turn the spotlight on five women directors from the Atlantic region.

"We have so many talented women in Atlantic Canada working outside the mainstream. It's exciting to see our directors given the chance to step up and show the rest of Canada what they have to offer," says Kimberlee McTaggart, WIFT-AT chair.

This year's **Five in Focus: Atlantic** directors are:

- Martine Blue, *Hunting Pignut*
- Stephanie Clattenburg, *Play Your Gender*
- Koumbie, *Ariyah & Tristan's Inevitable Break-up*
- Gia Milani, *All the Wrong Reasons*
- Harmony Wagner, *Kooperman*

(bios and photos of finalists below)

The directors were selected by an esteemed panel of jurors representing both the broadcast and production communities:

- Michelle Daly: Senior Director, CBC Comedy
- Allan Hawco: Actor/Producer/Writer, Take the Shot Productions
- Gosia Kamela: Production Executive, Drama & Feature Film, Bell Media
- Joan Lambur: Producer, CEO Lambur Productions
- Michael Volpe: President, Topsail Entertainment

“I was extremely honoured to take part in this initiative. It’s such a wonderful way of acknowledging female directing talent in our country and giving them the recognition they deserve within the industry,” said selection committee member Joan Lambur.

Each of the five directors will participate in an Industry Day organized by international consultant Jan Miller, in Halifax on March 2 where they will have customized one-on-one meetings with producers, and a Master Class with some of Canada’s most respected media creators. This will be followed by their full participation in WIFT-AT’s **Women Making Waves** conference which begins the evening of March 2 and continues March 3 with a remarkable line-up of talent.

The Five in Focus 2018 directors are available for interviews.

Five in Focus: Atlantic is supported by the **Status of Women Canada** and **Telefilm Canada**. **Five in Focus** runs alongside **2xMore**, an initiative to double the number of Canadian women directing scripted TV. **2xMore** is sponsored by the Status of Women Canada in partnership with Alberta Government, Bell Media, CBC, CMF, CMPA, Creative BC, DGC, NFB, OMDC, and Telefilm Canada. Learn more about 2xMore [here](#).

About Women in View

Women in View is a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to strengthening gender, racial and cultural diversity in Canadian media both on screen and behind the scenes. They do this 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.

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2018 Five in Focus: Atlantic Directors



Martine Blue

Martine Blue is a multi-award-winning writer, director, editor and producer based in Newfoundland and Labrador whose accolades include Best Canadian Film at the Female Eye Film Festival, Best Debut Feature at the Arizona International Film Festival, and three Audience Choice Awards. She wrote, directed and edited the award-winning feature, *Hunting Pignut*. She is the webisode writer/director for the TV show *Hors Circuits 2*; and recently directed part of the NL/NS feature, *Hopeless Romantic*. Martine is currently developing a YA fantasy TV series and two feature films.



Stephanie Clattenburg

Stephanie Clattenburg is a writer-director with over 12 years experience in film and television. Her first feature length film, *PLAY YOUR GENDER* was awarded the 'Edith Lando Peace Prize, from The Reel 2 Real Film Festival in Vancouver and Best Music/Art Documentary at the Melbourne Documentary Film Festival. Her latest short film, *PLAY REWIND PLAY*, which she wrote, directed and co-produced, had its world premiere at the Roswell Film Festival in New Mexico in April 2017 where it was nominated for Best Short Film; and took home the Audience Choice Award at the Parrsboro Film Festival.



Koumbie

Koumbie is an actor, writer, and director, proudly based in Halifax, Nova Scotia. In front of the camera, she has had reoccurring roles on YTV's *Aquateam*, CBC's *Mr. D*, and season 3 of Thom Fitzgerald's *Sex & Violence*. Koumbie has directed a number of award winning and nominated projects including Short Film Face Off winner, *Hustle & Heart*, the 1k wave feature film, *Ariyah & Tristan's Inevitable Break-up*, and an episode of *Studio Black S2* which will air in 2017.

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Gia Milani



New Brunswick-based writer, director, producer, Gia Milani's 2013 debut feature, *All the Wrong Reasons*, film won several awards including the Grolsch Film Works Discovery Prize at TIFF (10k prize), the Script Accessible Award at Slamdance, and the Viewer's Choice Award at the Silver Wave Film Festival. Her short film, *A Dark Radius*, won the CBC 3-2-1 \$25,000 Award. Gia mentors up-and-coming filmmakers and has executive produced several shorts and a feature film for new talent. Gia's latest screenplay, *Strathcona*, was shortlisted in 2017 for the TIFF/CBC Diverse Screenwriter's Grant.

Harmony Wagner



Harmony Wagner is a PEI-based writer, director and producer where she runs Periscope Pictures. Her award-winning first short film *Vast* played at the Shorts Gala at Atlantic Film Festival and was broadcast on CBC. Harmony's second short, *Queen of the Crows*, screened at the Cannes Film Festival in Telefilm Canada's short program. In 2015, she co-wrote, directed and produced the Telefilm Microbudget feature comedy *Kooperman*. She was awarded the 1K Award for her second feature *Singing to Myself*. Her IPF pre-school webseries *Bunnybop!* was nominated for Best International Pilot – Children and Youth at the Banff World Media Festival.