



“2017 Five in Focus” Directors Announced

OTTAWA (February 2, 2017) – **Women in View** announced the finalists of its inaugural “**Five in Focus**” initiative at CMPA's Prime Time in Ottawa today. The initiative -- part of Women in View's [2xMore](#) campaign to double the number of women directing -- is intended to bring greater attention to the depth of directing talent among Canadian women. The finalists were selected by an esteemed panel of jurors representing both the broadcast and production communities.

2017 **Five in Focus** winners are Gloria Kim, Jem Garrard, Sherren Lee, Wendy Morgan, and Weyni Mengesha.

(See below for bios and photos of Finalists)

The jurors – Sarah Adams (CBC Television), Louise Clark (Lark Productions), Jennifer Holness (Hungry Eyes Film & Television, Inc.), Gosia Kamela, (Bell Media), and Christina Piovesan (First Generation Films) – were extremely impressed with quality and diversity of talent.

"It was a real struggle to select only five women," said Jennifer Holness, producer, screenwriter and President of Hungry Eyes Film and Television. "We were really pleased to see such a high level of accomplishment among so many women."

"We had a lot of strong talent to consider," said Gosia Kamela, Production Executive Drama & Feature Film, Independent Production, Bell Media.

Rina Fraticelli, Executive Director of Women in View, explained part of the thinking behind the initiative, "There's still the misconception that the talent pool of women directors is not very deep. This is clearly not the case. These five talented women are the tip of the iceberg."

The five finalists will be offered a networking day, courtesy of Telefilm Canada, including tailored meetings with the five jurors and other private and public sector industry decision-makers. Each director will also receive \$2,500 in services from William F. White as part of their national grants programme, and passes to the

Toronto International Film Festival, Vancouver International Film Festival, and the Whistler Film Festival.

The Five in Focus winners are available for interviews.

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.

Five in Focus will run 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](#).

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2017 Five in Focus Winners



Gloria Kim – Director/Writer/Producer

Born in Seoul, Korea, Gloria Ui Young Kim earned a degree in English Literature at the University of Toronto before working at numerous magazines, most notably *Maclean's*. She is an alumna of both the Canadian Film Centre's Directors' Lab and the TIFF Talent Lab.

Kim's short film, *Rock Garden: A Love Story* (CBC, Bravo, IFC), has won numerous awards including the Global Audience Award for the Best

Anarchy Film at Slamdance 2008, and the CBC Canadian Reflections Award. *The Auction* (CBC, IFC), premiered at TIFF's Sprockets Family Zone program, won the Best Short Film award, among others, and is now part of the John VanDuzer Film Collection at TIFF's Bell Lightbox. Kim wrote, directed, and produced *Flamenco* for CBC in 2015. Short film [Why Do I Dance](#) has garnered nearly a million views on YouTube since its launch in 2012. She also spent time shadow-directing on Back Alley Production's Global series, BOMB GIRLS and on CBC's KIM'S CONVENIENCE.

Kim was chosen for the 2016 Women in the Director's Chair-Career Advancement Module, as well as the Story and Leadership program. Kim was also awarded the 2016 CBC Diverse Creators Workshop and was in the inaugural NSI Shaw Media Diverse TV Director's Program. Kim directs for the Canadian Film Centre on an ongoing basis, is on the Charles Street Video Board as well as the WIFT-T Engagement Committee.



Jem Garrard – Director/Filmmaker

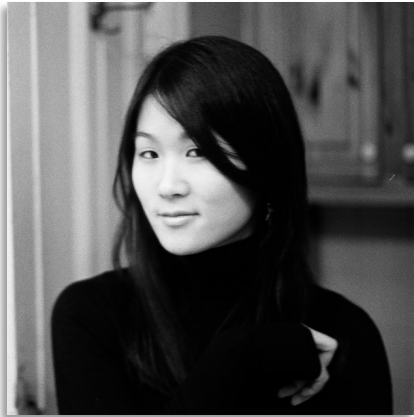
Jem Garrard is a four-time Leo Award-winning filmmaker with experience filming internationally. A graduate from a four-year film production degree program in London, England, Garrard has spent the past seven years directing music videos, documentaries, commercials, short films, and TV in Vancouver.

Garrard has produced official music videos for artists such as Ringo Starr, Linkin Park, Young Galaxy, and Bend Sinister. Her first feature documentary *Guns to Mics* has just been released in the international festival circuit.

In 2015, Garrard directed the groundbreaking first season of OutTV's sitcom *THE SWITCH*, in which transgender roles are played by transgendered actors. In May 2014, she won four Leo awards for her musical TV documentary called *Playground*.

In February 2015, Garrard was one of six winners of the prestigious Crazy8s film competition, and in eight days she shot and edited her short film *The Wolf Who Came to Dinner*, which went on to win Best Short from numerous festivals, including best screenplay at the Whistler International Film Festival.

In February 2016, her short film *Unit Bryan* was picked up by Telus Optik TV to become a televised series. Earlier this year, Garrard directed four episodes of Disney's action sci-fi series *MECH X-4*. Garrard has just completed her first feature screenplay, a controversial sci-fi/drama about parental testing through AI and hopes to begin filming this summer.



Sherren Lee – Director

Sherren Lee is a Taiwan-born director, raised in Montréal and currently residing in Toronto.

In 2007 Lee graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce from McGill University in Montreal and is a 2014 alumna of the Directors' Lab at Norman Jewison's Canadian Film Centre.

In August 2016, Lee directed an episode of Sinking Ship Entertainment's *DINO DANA*, as part of the Women in View 2x More initiative.

Lee's short film *Benjamin* was an official selection at several festivals including TIFF 2015, AFF 2015, WIFT-T Showcase 2016 (Best Screenplay Award), Yorkton Film Festival 2016 (Golden Sheaf Award Winner), and Palm Springs International ShortFest 2016. In February 2014, Lee launched *Someone Not There*, an award-winning web series.

Lee is currently working towards her first feature film, *With Might and Grace* while developing *LITTLE THINGS*, a television series based on her short *Benjamin*, and *Caregivers*, a 10-episode dramatic web series.

This winter, Lee will direct on *ODD SQUAD* and shooting her next short film, *The Things You Think I'm Thinking* – a drama starring Prince Amponsah.



Wendy Morgan – Director

Born in Edmonton to Chilean parents, Wendy Morgan studied Art History at McGill University in Montréal and began her career in Vancouver directing music videos in 2001. Almost immediately, Morgan won seven Much Music Video Awards including that for best director.

In 2006, Morgan jumpstarted her career directing commercials at MTV Canada. There, she wrote and directed several award winning campaigns. In 2008, Morgan's video for Gnarl's Barkley's "Going On", shot on location in Kingston, Jamaica, was nominated for both a U.K. Video Award and for Video of the Year at the Juno Awards. In 2010, her highly acclaimed video for Janelle Monáe's "Tightrope" earned an MTV nomination for Best Choreography and was named the #1 Video of 2010 by NME magazine. Morgan's 2012 video "Happy" for Paris producers C2C topped end of year lists for its unique choreography and style. To date, "Happy" has more than 14 million views online.

In 2015, the Paris Opera debuted their online platform the "3rd Stage" with Morgan's dance film *etoiles, I see you*, shot inside the Paris Opera with dance legend Lil Buck. In 2016, her video for the Kills, "Doing it Death" was nominated for a U.K. VMA. Morgan's clients include Volkswagen, IKEA, Cover Girl, Ford, Roche Bobois, and JC Penny.

Most recently, Wendy directed eight episodes in the first two seasons of Family Channel's drama series, BACKSTAGE. Morgan is currently preparing to direct the feature film *Sugar Daddy*, alongside producers Lauren Grant (*Wet Bum*, KILLJOYS) and Lori Lozinski (PACKAGES FROM PLANET X).



Weyni Mengesha – Director

Weyni Mengesha received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Directing at York University before spending two years training in classical theatre at the Soulpepper Academy. Mengesha has since built her award-winning storytelling career in theaters across Canada. She recently made her U.S. directorial debut with *Bars and Measures* at the Boston Court in L.A., where she currently resides part time.

Mengesha makes her New York City theatre debut this spring at the Rattlestick Theatre, preceding her Broadway debut with *KIM'S CONVENIENCE* (CBC)

which she directed across Canada. Recent theatre directing work includes the Canadian premiere of *Father Comes Home from the Wars*, and *Breath Of Kings*, an original adaptation of the *Herniad Cycle* at the Stratford Shakespeare Festival. Her award-winning productions include *Lungs* and *The Small Room at the Top of the Stairs*. Awards and nominations from the Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts include: *Butcher* (Why Not Theatre/MIRVISH), *A Raisin in the Sun* (Soulpepper Theatre), and the acclaimed *'da Kink in My Hair* (Mirvish Productions).

Mengesha started in film as an assistant director and floor director for *Lord Have Mercy* (Leda Serene Films/Vision). She directed the pilot and last episode of the award winning web series *LA'd*. Her first 20-minute short *Hero.Traitor.Patriot* premiered at Raindance Festival in London, England and went on to play in international festivals. She is currently developing a documentary and a short film, both which she has co-written.