



Shooting Women

Director: Alexis Krasilovsky, USA, 2008, 54 minutes

Shooting Women features over fifty women cinematographers and directors from around the world. It was shot over a period of six years by pioneering filmmaker and cinema studies professor Alexis Krasilovsky. And it celebrates the amazing talent and unflinching spirit of image-making women, from the sets of Hollywood and Bollywood to the war zones of Afghanistan.

This internationally-acclaimed documentary, based on Krasilovsky's book 'Women Behind the Camera,' broaches the persistent issues encountered by women in film. From the glass ceiling, sexual harassment, childcare for professional camerawomen around the globe, and working in environments where raising such issues is seen as 'unprofessional.'

Seasoned film professionals tell incredible stories of working under intolerable conditions of harassment, intimidation, and sexual assault. Names of a few well-known men are dropped and some bitter truths are laid on the table. Krasilovsky's ambitious endeavor paints a portrait of a historically male-dominated profession with progress still being made at a snail's pace. While today some may view the film industry as progressive, the boys' club reigns and women are an extremely small minority as cinematographers and directors.

With wide-ranging access and rich diversity, *Shooting Women* offers insight from top directors of photography like Ellen Kuras (*Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*) and Sandi Sissel (*Salaam Bombay!*), as well as Canadian cinematographers Zoe Dirse and Joan Hutton. The film also tells the story of groundbreaking women like African-American Jessie Maple Patton, who sued the American union and networks for the right to work. From historic footage of Mao's travels from China's first camerawoman and secretly filmed beatings of women in Afghanistan, to clips of horror, Hollywood, and experimental films, viewers get a glimpse of how women behind the camera are changing the world of filmmaking.

Followed by a public forum: *Underrepresented – Women Behind the Camera*.

COMMUNITY PARTNER



FORUM: Underrepresented – Women Behind the Camera

In a recent study on women in the British Columbian film industry, statistics showed that women are significantly underrepresented in the positions of writer, director, and director of photography. What are the barriers facing women in filmmaking? This forum puts the issue of gender squarely on the table for discussion with veteran, mid-career, and emerging documentary filmmakers.

MODERATOR

Rina Fraticelli is an independent documentary producer and writer whose credits have garnered multiple awards. As Executive Producer of Studio D, the National Film Board's groundbreaking women's studio, she oversaw the production of numerous landmark films. From 2002 to 2006, she was Executive Producer of the NFB Pacific and Yukon Studio. Fraticelli currently produces *Women in View 2010*, a global multi-disciplinary forum and festival of women in media.

PARTICIPANTS

Karen Cho is a Montreal-based filmmaker interested in documentary and other narrative forms. Karen's films often recount untold histories and explore themes of immigration, activism, identity, and social justice. Karen is interested in using film as a tool for social debate. She has received several awards for her work and her recent film *Seeking Refuge* has its Western Canadian festival premiere at DOXA this year.

Moira Simpson's work as an award-winning freelance director, cinematographer and editor spans thirty years. The subjects of her films range from strife in Kosovo, to youth drug addiction, to aid in Africa. She was recently Director of Photography on *Finding Dawn*, on the epidemic of missing and murdered Indigenous women across Canada. As filmmaker in residence with *Fearless City Mobile* and *W2*, Mo is currently exploring mobile phone video technology.

Kamala Todd is a Métis-Cree/German filmmaker, community planner, and mother, with a Master's degree in urban geography. She was Aboriginal Social Planner for the City of Vancouver for six years. She writes and directs for the APTN children's Cree television series *Nehiyawetan*. Her most recent film, *Indigenous Plant Diva* (NFB), premiered at the Vancouver International Film Festival. Kamala is creator and director of *Storyscapes*, a multimedia Aboriginal community arts project.

Aerlyn Weissman has worked on films from Hollywood to the Himalayas. As a writer/director she has won two Genie awards and made films on a wide range of topics from forensic archaeology and digital technologies, to censorship and social issues. She recently received a Master's degree in digital media. Whether she is creating data visualizations or shooting historical recreations, her signature approach involves a seamless blend of documentary, digital and dramatic elements.

This forum follows the screening of *Shooting Women*. Forum is free of charge.

SPECIAL EVENT PARTNER

