

2020 AMPIA BOARD SLATE

Eight Board Positions are open for election at this year's AGM.

The Slate of Nominees put forward by the Nominating Committee:

David Benson – Edmonton

Michelle Gayse-Leader – Calgary

Janet Hamley – Calgary

Brent Kawchuk – Calgary

Cohen Mill – Edmonton

Dave Shultz – Calgary

Adam Thom – Lethbridge

Bonnie Thompson - Edmonton

Slate Nominees



DAVID BENSON - Freelance Productions Ltd. has been serving the communication needs of Canada's foremost broadcast and corporate clients for over 30 years. At the helm is the Award winning David Benson, a veteran television Producer, Director, and Writer whose documentary production credits include: Hail Mary 11 x 30 min Doc Series for City TV, The Rig (Seasons I & II 13 x30), Lights... Camera.. Alberta, Behind the Screen 1 x 60, Chasing the Sun (Season I 13 x 30), Island of Faith, Adoption Stories, and Canadians in Kentucky. David has worked with a range of television broadcast clients including, CTV, Alliance Atlantis, National Geographic, OLN, Rogers Sportsnet, TSN, ESPN and TBS, just to name a few. He is currently working for the Edmonton Police Service in Corporate Communications as a Producer and Video Solutions Architect handling all the live and productions needs that have arisen during the COVID pandemic. He also has a rich and diverse background of Technical Producing, directing and cinematography for sports programs including segments for several Winter and Summer Olympic Games, the 1996 World Figure Skating Championships and the 2003 Heritage Classic Hockey Game. With this experience, Freelance Productions also brings a team with depth in business and legal affairs, production, and post-production, which enables the ability to produce and facilitate quality, fact-based programming for broadcasters worldwide.



MICHELLE GAYSE-LEADER has a passion for storytelling, Michelle Gayse began her diverse media career nearly three decades ago. She excels as a journalist, host, production coordinator, producer and director. Michelle launched her career after graduating with honours from the Broadcast News program at SAIT in 1990. She started as a Television Anchor/Producer/Reporter in small town British Columbia the day Iraq invaded Kuwait and worked her way up covering a wide variety of stories and interviewing fascinating people from around the world at stations across Western Canada.

In 2002, along with Director of Photography Allan Leader, Michelle founded Calgary-based Leader Production Services. Michelle's storytelling ability, coupled with her business acumen, has helped the video production company grow exponentially since inception. Michelle's work includes producing and directing for broadcast clients such as Discovery Channel, NHL Network and Vice TV. Michelle is also sought-after for voiceover projects and as on-camera talent for television commercials. Michelle is committed to sharing her expertise to benefit Alberta's growing media industry.



JANET HAMLEY is the Chief Operating Officer and Co-Executive Producer at Prairie Dog Film + Television. Janet supports the Showrunner by helping produce the television series, providing feedback and notes on scripts, pitches, media, and the development of future projects. She focuses on business matters and is responsible for all aspects of accounting and business affairs, including financing, budgeting, cost reporting, cashflow, and contracts, as well as the overall corporate operations.

Janet is educated as a Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA), Certified Management Accountant (CMA) and has a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting and Applied Business Administration from Mount Royal University in Calgary, Alberta. She began her Accounting career in 2003, shifting her focus to the Film & Television industry in 2006. Since then, her experience has led her to work on multiple dramatic television series, feature films, a movie of the week, short films, documentaries, docu-series, a lifestyle TV series, promotional videos, web/television commercials, public service announcements and corporate event videos. These projects have aired on NETFLIX, Amazon Prime Video, Hulu, CBC, Rogers, ABC, CTV, APTN, BRAVO, CMT Live, Discovery Channel, ESPN, The Food Network, Muchmusic, and OMNI.

Janet was recently acknowledged by CPA Alberta with an Early Achievement Award in 2020, was celebrated as one of Avenue Magazine's Top 40 Under 40 in 2019 and received a Community Service Award for her volunteering efforts in 2018. Janet is currently the Treasurer on the Board of the Alberta Media Production Industries Association (AMPPIA) and is a member of the Canada Media Producers Association, and Women in Film & Television Alberta (WIFTA).



BRENT KAWCHUK has produced quality commercials and corporate films in the Western Canadian market for the past 20 years. Before coming to Bamboo, he had worked for and/or with Midnight Hwy Film Co, Combustion Inc., Joe Media group, Corkscrew/Stir and White Iron. Brent has shot projects across North America, working with many agencies and their clients such as ATB, the Calgary Stampede, Ford, Chrysler, Toyota, Western Canada Lotteries, Sport Chek, WestJet and Tim Hortons.

Brent has also directed and produced award-winning long-form documentaries including *Ballettulah*, which was awarded a Canadian Screen Award in 2016 and three Alberta Media Production Industries Association (AMPIA) Awards. Brent also received a Gemini nomination for *The Cult of Walt: Canada's Polka King*, a fun and engaging documentary that he co-wrote and produced on the legendary Walter Ostanek. He has produced numerous music and performance specials as well as many award-winning commercials. Brent has also produced many awards shows, music specials and music videos. His past work has been recognized with AMPIA Awards, Banff Rocky Awards and Gemini nominations.

On the broadcast side, Brent has written and produced television programming for networks across Canada including CBC, Bravo, YTV and Global. He has worked extensively with kids programming through shows such as *Street Cents* where he served as the show's western producer as well as his own national youth magazine program, *From The Hip*. Before entering television, Brent spent four years as a teacher in Calgary and holds a Bachelor of Education degree. He also holds a Bachelor of Journalism with Distinction and attended the Banff Television Executive Leadership program.



COHEN MILL Born and raised in Spruce Grove, Alberta, Cohen obtained his BA (Hon) in 2016 and his JD in 2019 from the University of Alberta. His practice focuses on intellectual property law, general litigation, and employment law.

Cohen volunteered in law school as a mentor to junior law students, sharing his experiences with to help them navigate midterms, finals and recruitment periods. Cohen enjoys cooking, shopping, attending concerts and travelling, most recently to Japan and Korea, and can sometimes be found bouldering or playing video games.



DAVE SCHULTZ is a Canadian born writer/director/producer. His feature film credits include the cult classic JET BOY, the period drama 45 RPM, the coming of age vampire thriller RUFUS, and the quirky friendship adventure CONSIDERING LOVE AND OTHER MAGIC, starring Will and Grace's Eric McCormack. Schultz specializes in the writing and directing of character driven drama. His writing credits include the Nicolas Cage sci-fi THE HUMANITY BUREAU, the Samuel L. Jackson caper film STONES (currently in pre-production), and screenplay adaptations for New York Times bestselling authors Joy Fielding and Daniel Kalla. Documentary credits include the six-part television series REBELS – A JOURNEY UNDERGROUND, narrated by Kiefer Sutherland, TLC's CHROME DREAMS, and the History Television special

THE LONGEST ROAD, coproduced with the National Film Board of Canada. Dave Schultz lives in Calgary, Alberta. Projects in development include THE GARDEN and MAROONED ON PLANET EARTH.



ADAM THOM Adam Thom is a writer, director, and producer from Lethbridge, AB. He is the owner/founder of THOM Company and is an associate producer with GOODWORK Studios. Adam's desire to tell a story, strives from a focus on human nature. He prides himself on telling personal, intimate, and human stories about every day, ordinary people, who so often make the most impact on the world around us.

Adam is a working filmmaker in the narrative, documentary, commercial, and brand space. He has had the opportunity to work on projects for SIA, Leslie Odom Junior, the Western Hockey League, the Lethbridge Hurricanes, and the Exhibition Park Lethbridge. Additionally, he is an associate producer on the IMAX feature documentary *Grand Prairie*.



BONNIE THOMPSON is a veteran Canadian media producer, owner of Dreaming Bird Productions in Edmonton. She worked with National Film Board of Canada for many years in marketing and with training programs, followed by 17 years as a producer on over 80 productions with Alberta and Canadian filmmakers and producers, on a slate of documentary, interactive, and animation projects. Thompson's productions have been broadcast on national (including CBC, History, Doc Channel, SuperChannel, Discovery, APTN) and international television (including NHK, PBS, CCT), screened on the web (including Netfilx, nfb.ca, itunes) and at festivals in

Canada and around the world, garnering many prestigious awards, including AMPIA, Webby, Gemini, Genie and Canadian Screen Academy nominations and awards, as well as a nomination for an Academy Award. A recent highlight is the feature documentary *nîpawistamâsowin: We Will Stand Up* (Tasha Hubbard, director) selected as the opening film at Hot Docs 2019, also winning the Best Canadian feature doc, with many festival screenings and awards since, and versioned for television for CBC and APTN.