

AMPIA Board Slate Bios - 2022



Connie Edwards brings many years of diverse experience as a Producer, Director and Writer to her award winning career in television and series production.

Her most recent production, *The Musical Animal*, which Ms. Edwards produced, directed and co wrote, is her fourth program for CBC's *The Nature of Things*. It follows the award winning *The Nature of Invention*. Ms. Edwards produced and directed the multi award winning *I Got Rhythm: The Science of Song* which followed on the heels of her international award winning documentary *Survival of The Fabulous!*

Ms. Edwards has been a Creative Producer, Creative Director for a variety of projects including the Gemini Award winning series *Taking It Off* and *X Weighted* (Anaid Productions), as well as a director on the award winning *Family Restaurant, Seasons I – III* (Anaid Productions).

Ms. Edwards produced and directed the one-hour award winning documentary *Final Curtain* and produced *The Millionaires' Club* a one-hour documentary about lottery winners. She was co producer of *RIP Great Cemeteries of the World*, a 26-part half-hour series for PRIME TV that included two one-hours for Discovery Travel US. She also wrote and produced the one-hour television documentary *Who is Watching the Children?*

Ms. Edwards received a Gold Remi for Directing *Shooter on Campus: Know You Can Survive* while her program *You Don't Know What You Don't Know* was a finalist for The Japan Prize.

Passionate and dedicated, Ms. Edwards is a tireless advocate for the production industry. Past President and former long time Board Member of the Alberta Media Producers Industry Association, she has served for many years on the Canadian Media Producer's Broadcast and Regulatory Affairs Committee and the CMPA Documentary Committee. She also serves on the Advocacy Committee for DOC – The Documentary Organization of Canada. In addition, she served for 5 years on the Edmonton John Howard Society Board and is Past President of the Board of the CTV Good Neighbour Fund where she served for 10 years. In 2006 she was honoured with an RBC Canadian Woman Entrepreneur of the Year nomination.



An industry veteran, independent producer **Brent Kawchuk** has written and produced award-winning television programming for networks across Canada. Brent has worked with advertising agencies and marketing departments across Canada to create hundreds of commercials, cinema, digital and interactive corporate pieces for brands such as Tim Hortons, Subway, McDonald's, Ford, Chevrolet, Western Canada Lotteries, Fountain Tire, Sport Chek, SGI, ATB and several Canadian Heritage Minutes. 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.

Brent has also directed and produced shows and documentaries such as *X-Change*, which explores the experiences of an Alberta 'redneck' and a Quebec separatist as they swap lives for 10 days. Its sequel, *God Only Knows: Same-Sex Marriage*, won an AMPIA Award for best documentary. It also received a prestigious Rocky Award at the Banff International Television Festival.

Brent received a Gemini nomination for *S*, a fun and engaging documentary on the legendary Walter Ostanek that he produced and co-wrote. He currently has produced four Canadian Heritage Minutes as well as the performance documentary *Balletlujah* which explores the life and music of kd lang, which won a 2016 Canadian Screen Award. Brent has produced many other live music, award and performance specials such as the CCMA's and ECMA's and oversaw well over 100 hours of programming for Telus, produced across Alberta and BC.

In the film world, he has co-written and co-produced the independent feature length movie, *American Beer*, and won the prestigious drama prize from the National Screen Institute for a film called *Saint Bernadette of Bingo*. He has also acted as producer on *Come True*, *Range Roads* and Stephen King's *In the Tall Grass*.

Brent has sat on juries for the CSA Awards, CIFF and Yorkton Festival. He has served for five years as part of the Ad Rodeo Society and has just completed his fifth year for AMPIA, most recently serving as the Events Committee Chair.



Janet Morhart is the Chief Operating Officer and Co-Executive Producer at Prairie Dog Film + Television. Janet supports the Showrunner by helping produce television; she provides 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, tax credits 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, OMNI TV and Wild bunch.

Janet was celebrated by CPA Alberta with an Early Achievement Award in 2020, acknowledged as one of Avenue Magazine's Top 40 Under 40 in 2019, and received a Community Service Award for her volunteering efforts. Janet is currently the Treasurer on the Board of the Alberta Media Production Industries Association (AMPIA), is on the Canada Media Producers Association (CMPA) Television Committee, a mentor for the 2022 Netflix-BANFF Diversity of Voices and is a member of the Women in Film & Television Alberta (WIFTA).



Writer/director/producer **Michael Peterson** graduated from the 2013 Canadian Film Centre Directors Lab and has a Master of Arts from The University of North Carolina. As a director he primarily works in comedy and horror, and continues to make a name for himself as one of Canada's top genre filmmakers.

He began his career making documentary films, and then moved into scripted with two feature films, *Lloyd the Conqueror*, a LARP sports comedy, and the horror, *Knuckleball*, starring Michael Ironside and Munro Chambers, which won an Audience Award at Fantasia Film Festival. For TV he has directed half-hour comedy including *Tiny Plastic Men - Season 4*, and episodes of *Caution: May Contain Nuts*.

Also, a successful producer and writer, Michael is constantly developing new projects and collaborating with other creatives; including executive producing CSA-nominated CBC Gem hip-hop comedy web series, *Ming's Dynasty*. Mostly, he loves the collaborative process, and a cinephile who loves a creative challenge.



Dave Schultz is a Canadian-born creator who specializes in the writing, directing, and producing of character driven drama. His feature films include the cult classic *Jet Boy*, the vampire adventure *Rufus*, and the family drama *Considering Love and Other Magic*. Other writing and directing credits include the rock'n'roll period drama *45 RPM*, and the

Nicolas Cage sci-fi *The Humanity Bureau*. Projects in development include *Marooned on Planet Earth*, and the trans teen drama *The Summer I played Ophelia*. His sci-fi feature *The Garden* is currently in pre-production. Dave Schultz lives and works in Calgary, Alberta. He is a DGC, WGC, AMPA, and CMPA member.



Bonnie Thompson is a veteran Canadian film producer. For three decades she worked with the National Film Board, collaborating with film/media makers and producers on documentary, animation, and interactive projects. She now produces independently with her company, Dreaming Bird Productions. Her work, screened nationally and internationally at festivals and on big and small screens, has been awarded multiple prestigious awards, including the animated short animation *Wildlife*, nominated for a 2012 Academy Award; the feature doc *Angry Inuk*, winner of the 2016 Hot Docs Audience Award, Best Documentary Award at ImagiNative and TIFF People's Choice Award; the PBS NOVA doc *Transplanting Hope* nominated for an Emmy; and *nîpawistamâsowin: We Will Stand Up*, Opening Night film at Hot Docs 2019, winner of Hot Docs Best Canadian Documentary, and 2020 CSA Best Feature Length Documentary. Thompson's work always has a strong social issue component and pushes boundaries in both form and content.