



ALL STARS

# BANFF **Spark** ACCELERATOR FOR WOMEN IN THE BUSINESS OF MEDIA

The BANFF Spark Accelerator for Women in the Business of Media is a program designed to address the systemic gap in gender equality and representation by providing market access, training, and networking opportunities, to help build and scale up significantly more Canadian women-owned businesses.

BANFF Spark has so far supported 200 women entrepreneurs championing diversity at its core, by empowering women of color, Indigenous women, women with disabilities, LGBTQ2S+ women, and non-binary individuals to advance both domestically, and across the global media industry.

FOUNDING INDUSTRY PARTNER



Entertainment Network



## **Jennifer Beasley**

President

**Big Cheese Pictures Inc.**

A Writers Guild of Canada-nominated writer, Jennifer has been active in the film communities in both Toronto and Winnipeg for over two decades. She joined Winnipeg-based Buffalo Gal Pictures in 2016 and as Production Executive, was integral to both the development and production divisions, adept at shepherding a project from the initial stages through financing to delivery. In 2017, Jennifer was named Head of Development, and in 2021 became Vice President of Development, overseeing the company's diverse feature and television slate. In addition, she has served since 2020 as Co-Chair of On Screen Manitoba's Board of Directors. In 2016, she founded Big Cheese Pictures Inc., a full-service production company with a focus on the development and production of scripted and unscripted live and animated television, with projects gaining traction in such markets as MIPTV in Cannes, and TIFF 2019. Most recently, one series was awarded selective program funding, with the support of Manitoba Film and Music, via CMF Early Stage Development Funding. In 2022, Jennifer was a Producer on the Kistikan-produced CTVComedy series Acting Good, and Executive Producer on the eOne Entertainment/Buffalo Gal Pictures-produced CTV series The Spencer Sisters (the latter recently announced as part of The CW's Fall 2023 lineup.)

In 2020, Jennifer was selected as an inaugural participant in the Banff Spark Accelerator Program and is thrilled to be selected to return as a Banff Spark All Star.

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## **Sholeh Alemi Fabbri**

Producer | Founder

**Good Measure Productions**

Sholeh Alemi Fabbri has produced award-winning content for two decades and received three Canadian Screen Award nominations. In 2021, Sholeh launched Good Measure Productions, focusing her talents at the intersection of production and impact. She is currently developing several narrative projects including Eclipse with writer/director duo Atefeh Khademolreza and Samuel Kiehoon Lee and Producer/EP Heather Haldane (Maudie) as well as One Last Pheasant with director Yael Staav (Working Moms), writer Delphine Roussel and EPs Paul Barkin (Night Raiders) and Kyle Mann (North of Normal).

Sholeh shifted into films as the Production Manager for the award-winning Documentary "Last of the Right Whales" by Director/Producer Nadine Pequenez. The film was the #1 Canadian film opening weekend and recently had its broadcast premiere on CBC's The Nature of Things. Good Measure Productions has also led impact work and audience development on a number of productions including Last of the Right Whales, Scrap (Stacey Tenenbaum), Peace By Chocolate (Jonathan Keijser), Stupid For You (Jude Klassen), and the upcoming Plastic People (Ben Addelman).

Prior to starting her own production company, Sholeh was the Executive Producer of ET Canada for over 7 years as well as several other broadcast programs. In 2022, she was selected to be part of the Banff Spark Accelerator program for Women in Media at the Banff World Media Festival. Sholeh sits on two boards including Story Money Impact a charity that connects media makers to changemakers and Artists for Peace and Justice, a non-profit organization that supports access to education for impoverished youth in Haiti. She is a member of the Canadian Media Producers Association (CMPA), the DOC Institute and WIFT-T.

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## Jennifer Pun

Producer

**Edge Entertainment**

Jennifer Pun is a partner and producer at Edge Entertainment, a Sault Ste. Marie-based film and television production company. Jennifer's producer credits include the award-winning tween series HOW TO BE INDIE, tween action/adventure series CONNOR UNDERCOVER, Canadian Screen Award nominated feature FALL and cult horror THE VOID. Most recently she produced Edge Entertainment's survival thriller CASCADE starring Sara Waisglass and Joel Oulette, and the Mexican Canadian psychological horror SACRIFICIOS.

In addition, Jennifer has acted as Business Affairs and Production Consultant to leading film and television companies on projects including SIMULANT (starring Sam Worthington and Simu Liu), WANDER and PAW PATROL. Prior to this, Jennifer held management positions at Heroic Film Company and Capri Films. She is an alumna of the Consulate General of Canada in NY & LA Canadian Creative Accelerator Women in Film, EAVE Access BIPOC Producers Program (NSI), Banff Spark, Netflix-Banff Diversity of Voices Initiative, and the Bell Media Executive Producer Accelerator Lab, among others.

She holds an HBA and MBA from the Ivey Business School at Western and an MFA from Vermont College of Fine Arts.

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## Alexandra Roberts

Founder  
**Push Pictures**

Alexandra Roberts has a decade of experience producing ambitious and forward-thinking stories for film and television, both scripted and documentary.

'Soft', the first feature produced under her company Push Pictures, premiered at TIFF 2022 and toured the global festival circuit, picking up awards at Chilliwack International Film Festival, Lovers Film Festival, and TRANSLations. It was released theatrically in 2023 by LevelFILM and will be available on SVOD later this year. For her work on 'Soft', she was a 2022 nominee of the CMPA Indiescreen Producer Awards.

Her upcoming documentary feature, "A Dream Displaced", will be directed by Lauren Wimbush (Miles Davis: Birth of the Cool, The 1619 Project), and is the recipient of the Catapult Research Grant.

Her projects have aired internationally on several networks, including HBO, Hulu, Netflix, Peacock, CBC, ARTE, NHK, Discovery, Roku, and CTV.

She holds a Master of Arts in Media Studies from The New School, a Bachelor of Arts from McGill University, and is an alumna of the Producer's Lab at the Canadian Film Centre.

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## **Kaitlan Stewart**

Executive Producer

**Fenix Film & Television**

Kaitlan Stewart is the executive producer and founder of Fenix Film & Television, a television production company based in Alberta, Canada.

After cutting her teeth on the sets of CANADA'S GOT TALENT, CITYLINE and THE BACHELOR CANADA, Kaitlan spent nearly a decade working with the writing, producing and development teams of some of Alberta's top-producing production companies. To date, Kaitlan's credits include season 3 of the docu-reality series THE LIQUIDATOR (Anaïd Productions), season 3 of the hit comedy series TINY PLASTIC MEN (Mosaic Entertainment), seasons 4 and 5 of the CSA award-winning dramatic series, BLACKSTONE (Prairie Dog Film + Television), and season 5 of Mosaic Entertainment's sketch comedy series, CAUTION: MAY CONTAIN NUTS.

As the VP of Development and Business Affairs at Mosaic Entertainment, Kaitlan facilitated the development of multiple intellectual properties where she worked alongside broadcasters (CBC, APTN, Super Channel), funders (BellFund, Alberta Media Fund, Canada Media Fund, etc.), production partners and creative teams to create market-ready IP's.

Since founding Fenix Film & Television, Kaitlan has successfully led the company through numerous development and production deals, securing hundreds of thousands of dollars in development funding across the company's slate of projects and millions of dollars in production funding. Fenix's inaugural feature-length documentary project, ONLY UP, licensed by Super Channel, is currently in post-production. It's first major network docu-series, PUSH, aired on CBC and CBC Gem in February 2023.

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