

## New Member

## Self Portrait

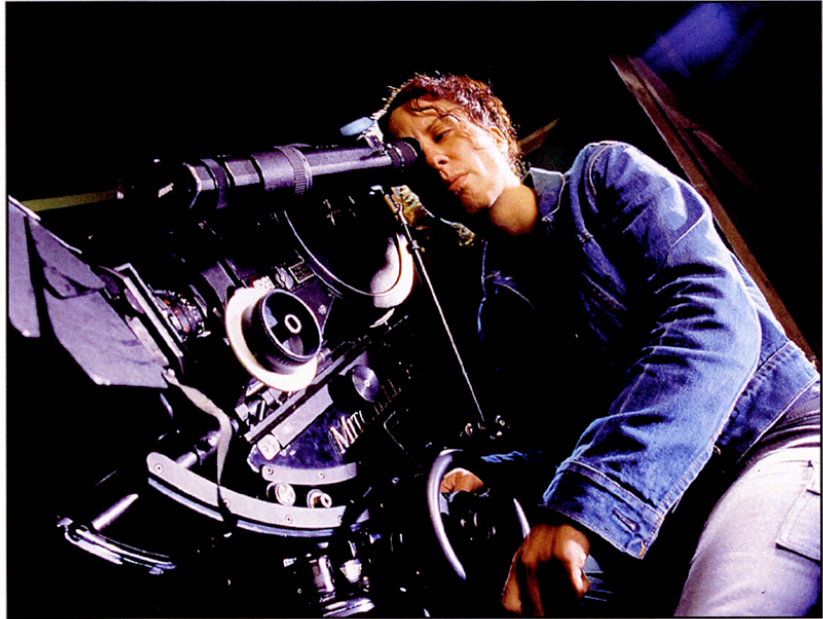
### Sheridan, Oakville, Canada

**S**heridan College was founded in 1967, and with a full-time complement of close to 12,000 students, is one of Canada's largest colleges schools. In the past thirty-five years, it has developed a wide-ranging reputation for excellence in media arts, crafts & design, illustration, animation, music theatre, graphic design and art history. Collectively, these programs are delivered through the School of Animation, Arts & Design, which has a full-time enrolment of approximately 2,650.

The Advanced Television & Film (ATVF) post-graduate Program, introduced in September 2000, builds on a long tradition of media arts education at Sheridan. Thirty years ago, the college introduced a three-year, postsecondary Media Arts Program which provides students with a solid foundation in writing, producing, cinematography, picture and sound editing, as well as theoretical foundations for understanding and creating original work.

The Advanced Television and Film Post-Graduate Program builds on the achievements of the Media Arts Program, but is a totally separate entity.

"When we started, our goal was clearly defined," says Vladimir Kabelik, the ATVF Program Coordinator. "We wanted to close the gap between what educational institutions were traditionally capable of delivering, and what the film and television industry truly needs in terms of advanced technology skills and direct production experience."



The Program is housed in the Sheridan Centre for Animation & Emerging Technologies (SCAET), a new facility (opened September, 2000) located only 30 minutes from downtown Toronto, Canada's media capital. SCAET was designed as a centre of excellence in visual effects, interactive multimedia, broadcast, computer graphics, animation and telecommunications. SCAET's technological infrastructure is state-of-the-art, due in large part to a series of creative partnerships with technology leaders such as Cisco Systems, Sony, Panavision, Fuji, and Alias|Wavefront. Its capacity includes broadband digital communications tied to local, national and international partners in industry and related institutions.

Within SCAET, the Advanced Television & Film Program is admirably well-equipped. Features include three fully digital classrooms, a virtual production

studio, a traditional studio, a 35mm/16mm screening theatre, a fully digital post-production facility and a comprehensive audio recording and post-production centre.

This one-year program combines comprehensive academic training and direct production experience in a variety of distinct, yet inter-related disciplines, including R&D activities and industry-oriented internships (job-shadowing). Many years ago, Sheridan became the first Avid training institution in Canada. Today, it continues its pioneering tradition as an HDTV and 35mm motion picture camera teaching centre as well as a training ground for I.A.T.S.E (International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees), Quantel and Sonic Solutions modules and courses.

The curriculum provides a core foundation in production techniques for film, television and



DVD, including aspects of interactive television. Students have the opportunity to focus their studies in one of three specializations: producing, directing and writing; editing and visual effects; and audio production and post-production.

While access to the best technology is a distinct advantage, equally important to the success of the program is its human capital – namely, the faculty.

Vladimir Kabelik, Program Coordinator and himself an accomplished documentary filmmaker and artist, drew on his industry connections to seek out and attract some of the leading lights of the Canadian film and television industry. These include Richard Leiterman, acclaimed cinematographer whose credits include *Goin' Down the Road* and *Wedding in White*; David Barlow, award-winning producer/writer; and Dennis Berardi, visual effects specialist – to name a few of the twenty or so working professionals who devote some of their time to teaching in the program.

The Advanced TV & Film Program enrolls approximately 40 full-time and 15-20 part-time students per academic year, with a significant number of these coming from outside Canada, including China, India and Korea, as well as the United States and United Kingdom. “Having a mix of students from different cultures and background enriches the educational experience,” says Kabelik. “It’s especially exciting to see these diverse individuals pulling together as teams to produce their student projects.”

Despite its youth, the program is already seeing impressive results. For example, two students from the first graduating class (2001) entered their student work at Worldfest 2002 in Houston,



Texas. Sarah Zammit won the Gold Star Award for her documentary, “Corporate Lock-down”, while Ron Toufar achieved a Platinum Star for his screenplay entitled “Twilight Claire”.

With its CILECT membership, Sheridan looks forward to forging new ties and partnerships with like institutions around the world. “We anticipate significant benefits and exciting opportunities for our students as a result,” says Kabelik. “We look forward to actively participating as a member of CILECT in the months and years ahead.”

