

## DOC BC Chair report – AGM 2009

By Leah Mallen

Warm welcomes to DOC BC's Annual General Meeting and Annual Holiday Season Party!!!

*Departing words from Deanne Esdale – Co-Chair*

*I have been honored to serve with you, fellow board members of the BC board, for the past three years, and with many of the membership here in the greater film and arts communities. When I first joined DOC's board, I co-produced the professional development series, and, in this last term I have served as co-chair, taking a role in visioning DOC's new platforms, as well as supporting it's many initiatives, including how to bridge the coming changes in cultural policy while holding critical discourse and ongoing support for immediate needs.*

*DOC BC has been an essential building block in my ongoing development in the documentary field, and I will continue to support as a member, as I excavate the landscape of digital media, storytelling, and seek to connect voices to audiences in entertaining, innovative and meaningful ways. As docs continue to break new ground in form and content, through community filmmaking projects, cross-platform media, interactive cinema, and animation, I look forward to experiencing your ways of seeing the world in 2010 and beyond.*

Its been a great year and another strong board who's time and energy and commitment has fostered such great things for the members. I will soon hand it over to our committee reports so you can hear of our achievements and goals, but I first want to give a big thank you to our members that continue to support us, despite a big increase in our dues. This has gone to great use in helping to raise our advocacy at the National level and everyone here knows that in these changing times the voice of documentary film must continue to be heard and supported.

More from Leah:

Hot Docs

I just returned from Toronto where I have the opportunity to be at the Hot Docs AGM since I sit on that board as a DOC representative. And I learn so much, they grow every year and become increasingly less reliant on funding when their public support has been so strong. It is always encouraging to hear how audiences grow every year and that their initiatives – that are all year round now – have seen great acclaim and success. This year, Julia will join me on that board too as they have increased their DOC representation.

*The voice of the independent filmmaker  
La voix du cinéaste indépendant*



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Doc Talk – Michaelin and I have co-chaired this committee to oversee the event for a few years now was moved to VIFF to some really positive success and we decided to support the new initiative Knowledge began with the Storyville pitches. It provided our members and those participating with practical knowledge from our panels and speakers and they got to meet with great funding decision makers and international commissioning editors. Attendance wasn't too high, so we do want to hear from the membership about what they would like to see at this event – a survey is forthcoming soon!

#### Departing Board Members

Deanne Esdale – such an amazing supporter and brought so much energy to our board for such a long time – we will really miss her – raised the bar on PD and explored many new themes of multiplatform and alternative distribution etc which we met with great success.

Sally Aitken – not really outgoing – as she will remain as an at-large member. We are happy to report she moved to Australia to direct a film on the rise of shopping and its history- a perfect film for her to be involved in! She will report back on the international scene until she can join us again when she is back in Vancouver.

Brishkay – we will miss her infectious energy and in the year she was with us she made great headway with reaching out to students to inform them of DOC and to enhance our membership. We wish her the best in her future endeavors.

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