



DEBORAH PARKS

PRODUCER • FILM MAKER

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Deborah Parks is an award winning documentary film producer with (**Emmy, Hot Docs and Canadian Screen Awards**). Recently produced films include Aisha Jamal's 'A Kandahar Away' (which had its world premiere at Hot Docs Festival in 2019). Then subsequently she has just produced the documentary film 'First Animals' with Director Andrew Gregg (in conjunction with the Royal Ontario Museum and CBC Doc Channel) which also had its debut in 2019. She is now in production of her latest documentary film 'Skymaster Down' also with Director Andrew Gregg.

Deborah has been producing critically acclaimed documentary films for nearly thirty years. Her father (a cinematographer for the Canadian Military R.C.A.F), planted the seed and Deborah followed in his footsteps from a young age. She began her career as a camera assistant working with some of Canada's renowned cinematographers, travelling the world, before transitioning to DOP. She then co-produced and shot her first film 'Shahira' with Shelley Saywell on location in Egypt's South-East Sahara Desert. For that first film she became the first woman to win the **Canadian Society of Cinematographers' (CSC) award**, for best Documentary. The film then was selected for 2 Gemini awards, several international festivals and was broadcast in 22 countries. It was a great beginning and since then Deborah and Shelley have made almost 20 films together. She has twice won the '**Best Canadian Doc Award' at Hot Docs, an Emmy Award**, and several other awards and distinctions.

For a number of years, Deborah alternatively 'left the road' in order to raise her young children and worked as an analyst at **Telefilm Canada**. There she learned the intricacies of international film co-productions, budgets and financing. Before long she returned to independent film production with a whole new set of skills!

In addition to her film collaboration with Shelley Saywell, Deborah has produced many films for some of Canada's top Directors, including four-time Emmy Winner **John Kastner** They worked together on nine long-format documentary films, two of them winning **Best Canadian Doc Awards at Hot Docs**, and one winning an **International Emmy Award!** She also has collaborated with Directors such as: Judy Jackson, John Zaritsky, Mary Anne Alton-Lemm, Roxana Spicer, Jari Osborne, Giselle Portenier and most recently Andrew Gregg.

When Deborah started her documentary film career, only four percent of Telefilm Canada's funding was awarded to women. She has been at the forefront of a generation of women who worked very hard to change that, with unique stories to tell and professionalism. Along the way Deborah began to mentor many young women filmmakers, some who have since distinguished themselves in the industry. She is an advocate for all women who try to tell their stories, and is a passionate supporter of the art of documentary filmmaking.

Deborah is the mother of two young women. She and her partner Jan Madlener live in Toronto.



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SELECTED FILM CREDITS, AWARDS & FESTIVALS

RED TRILLIUM FILMS INC

'BUG SEX' 2023 **Producer/PM**
([CBC Doc Channel](#)), CBC The Nature of Things' with David Suzuki

'SKYMASTER DOWN' 2022 **Producer/PM**
([CBC Doc Channel](#))
International FF Rotterdam; Manhattan International FF, Bucharest Film Awards, Hamburg Indie FF Semi Finalist; Dublin International FF Semi Finalist; ALFF Whitehorse FF; Montreal Independent FF

'FIRST ANIMALS' 2019 **Producer/PM**
([CBC Doc Channel](#)), CBC The Nature of Things' in collaboration with Royal Ontario Museum

KITAB PRODUCTIONS INC.

'A KANDAHAR AWAY' 2018 **Producer**
([CBC Doc Channel](#)), Hot Docs Premiere 2019, Junction North International Doc Festival, Belleville Downtown Doc Festival, Screening - Canadian War Museum Ottawa, Reframe Film Festival

DEFYING DESTINY FILMS INC.

'IN THE NAME OF YOUR DAUGHTER' 2018 **Co-Producer**
([BBC-STORYVILLE](#), [IKON](#), [SVT](#), [DR](#), [DR SALES](#), [YLE](#)), Copenhagen DOX Film Festival 2018, ZIFF Tanzanian Film Festival 2018, [Northwest Fest 2018 \(Edmonton\) Best Canadian Feature - Jury Award 2018](#)

BISHARI FILMS INC.

'THE WAR AT HOME' 2016 **Producer, Additional Photography**
([CBC-First Hand](#)) CSA nominations, Donald Britain Award, Best Social/ Political Documentary & Best Writing in a Documentary Program or Series

'LOWDOWN TRACKS' 2014 **Producer, Additional Photography**
([TVQ](#)) [Hot Docs Top 10 audience award](#), Edmonton International film Festival 2014, Regent Park Film Festival, Canadian Music week Film Festival 2014, Reframe Film Festival 2015, Belleville International Film festival 2015

'CRADLE TO GRAVE' 2013 **Producer, DOP**
([NFB](#)), Filmed in Pre Production

'IN THE NAME OF THE FAMILY' 2010 **Producer/PM**
([CTV](#)) [Hot Docs Best Canadian Documentary 2010](#), IDFA International Premiere, CSA Nomination Donald Brittain Award, Hot Docs Showcase Ottawa

'THE NANNY BUSINESS' 2011 **Producer/PM**
([History Channel](#)) Shelley Saywell - Director

'DEVIL'S BARGAIN' 2009 **Producer/PM**
([History Channel](#)) "A JOURNEY INTO THE SMALL ARMS TRADE"
IDFA International Premiere, [Gemini Awards nomination - Best Cinematography-Documentary](#)

'MARTYR STREET' 2006 **Producer/PM**
([History Channel](#)) [Hot Docs Best Canadian Feature 2006](#), [Gemini Awards](#), [Donald Britain Award](#), [Best Photography](#), [Best Editing](#), Shelley Saywell - Director



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'HAMAS BEHIND THE MASK' 2005 **Producer/PM**
(CBC) Shelley Saywell - Director

'ANGRY GIRLS' 2004 **Producer, Additional Photography**
(TV Ontario) [Gemini Award: Best Children's & Youth Non-Fiction Programming](#), Shelley Saywell - Director

'GENERATION OF HATE' 2003 (Part 1 & 2) **Producer/PM**
(CBC) Shelley Saywell - Director

'STREET NURSE' 2002 **Producer/PM**
(WTN) Shelley Saywell - Director

'A CHILDS CENTURY OF WAR' 2001 **Producer/PM**
(History TV) [Academy Award Shortlist: Best Feature Documentary 2001](#);
[Gemini Awards for Best Editing and Sound for a Documentary](#)
Shelley Saywell - Director

'OUT OF THE FIRE' 2000 **Producer/PM**
[Hot Docs](#), [Silver Award for Best Canadian Documentary](#), [Golden Sheaf Awards for Best History Program and Best of the Festival](#), [Gemini Awards for best Editing and Sound for a Documentary Program](#)
Shelley Saywell - Director

'CRIMES OF HONOUR' 1999 **Producer**
(CBC) [International Emmy Award for Outstanding Investigative Journalism](#), [Columbus International Film Festival](#), [Chris Award](#), [Gemini Award](#), [Donald Brittain Award for Best Social/Political Documentary](#)

'LEGACY OF TERROR' 1998 **Producer/PM**
(TVO) "The Bombing of air India"

'SHAHIRA' 1988 **Producer/Director of Photography**
(CBC) [Gemini Awards nominated for Best Directing and Cinematography](#)
[Canadian Society of Cinematographers Award](#), [Best Cinematography in a Documentary](#), [First Canadian Woman to receive an Award by CSC](#);
[Manheim International Film Festival](#)

J.S. KASTNER PRODUCTIONS LTD.

'NOT CRIMINALLY RESPONSIBLE' 2016 **Producer**
[WEDDING SECRETS](#)" (CBC First Hand, documentary Channel)
John Kastner - Director

'OUT OF SIGHT, OUT OF MIND' 2014 **Producer**
(TVO, NFB) [Best Canadian Feature Doc - Hot Docs 2014](#), [CSA Nominated - best Direction, Editing Donald Brittain](#), [Atlantic Film Festival 2014](#), [Calgary International Film Festival 2014](#), [Screenings: Cork Film Festival 2014](#), [FIPA 2015](#) [Zagreb Dox 2015](#), [International Film Festival Reykjavik](#),
John Kastner - Director

'NCR: Not Criminally Responsible' 2013 **Producer**
(CBC/NFB, Doc Channel) [Hot Docs 2013](#); [Sheffield Film Festival](#), many international screenings and Festival presentations are ongoing
John Kastner - Director

'LIFE WITH MURDER' 2010 **Producer**
(CTV, NFB) [Hot Docs 2010](#), [International Emmy Award - Outstanding Documentary](#), [Gemini 2011 - Donald Brittain Award for Best Social/Political Documentary](#), [Chicago Film Festival - Gold and Silver Hugo Awards](#), [Houston International Film festival - Special Jury Prize](#) John Kastner - Director



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'MONSTER IN THE FAMILY' 2007-2009 (PART 1&2) **Producer**
(CTV) John Kastner - Director

'SINNER IN PARADISE' 2006 **Producer**
(CTV) John Kastner - Director

'LIVING DANGEROUSLY' 2003 **Producer**
(CBC) (TRILOGY, 'Rage Against the Darkness') John Kastner - Director

'GERTS SECRET' 2003 **Producer**
(CBC) (TRILOGY, 'Rage Against the Darkness') John Kastner - Director

'BUNNY & LEONA' 2002 (TRILOGY) **Producer**
(CBC) (TRILOGY, 'Rage Against the Darkness') John Kastner - Director

'RAGE AGAINST THE DARKNESS' THE TRILOGY 2003 **Producer**
(CBC) *Hot Docs 2003 - Best Canadian Documentary Feature, Prix Italia Finalist - Silver Chris Award 2003, Input Barcelona 2004 Special Selection Screening* John Kastner - Director

SELECTED OTHER PRODUCING/PM CREDITS

'WATER UNDER THE TABLE' 2010 **Executive Producer**
(TVQ) Director - Liz Marshall

'THE BEAVER WHISPERER' 2013 **Producer**
(CBC - Nature of Things) Director - Jari Osborne

'THE 40 YEAR SECRET' 2009 **Producer**
(CBC) Director - Mary Anne Alton Lemm

'MYTH OR SCIENCE' 2009 **PM**
(CBC - Nature of Things) Infield Fly Productions

'THE THINKING CAR' 2008 **Producer/PM**
(EU Commission) Director - Roxana Spicer

'RETURN TO SENDER' 2005 **Producer**
(CBC) Director - Mary Anne Alton Lemm

'SKI BUMS' 2002 **Producer/PM**
(NEB) Director - John Zaritski

'GRANDMOTHERS TO GRANDMOTHERS CAMPAIGN' 2002 **Producer**
DOP/PM *Steven Lewis Foundation, Bishari Films*

'TALK MOGADISHU' 2000 **PM**
Director - Judy Jackson, PM

'MEDIA UNDER FIRE' 2002 **PM**
Director - Judy Jackson, PM

'FAIRY FAITH' 2000 **PM**
(CBC) Director - John Walker

'EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE' 1999 **PM**
(CBC) Director - John Zaritsky

'TURNING POINTS OF HISTORY' 1999 **PM**
BarnaAlper Productions - Various Directors

'IT TAKES A CHILD' 1998 **PM**
(TVQ) Director - Judy Jackson

'THE CRAIG KILBERGER STORY' 1998 **PM**