

PAT TAYLOR - Bio



Pat (Patricia) Taylor's involvement in the entertainment industry spans more than 25 years and many genres, including film, television, music and live theatre. She has worked professionally as a producer, writer, director, performer and educator; her credits include documentary films, television specials, plays, musicals, short stories, music videos and major tourist attractions.

In many of these projects, Pat has been in demand for her ability to present material in ways that make it compelling and meaningful to a broad audience. From 1987 to 2003, as producer, co-writer and director of **Eureka Theatre Company** at the Theatre Royal in Barkerville, she created annual vaudeville-style shows that showcased the town's colourful history. Pat and her creative/business partners Lee Taylor and Michael Booth Palmer were also responsible for the **Barkerville Street and Music Interpretation** program, training and directing performers to interact with the public and make the past accessible to visitors from all over the world.

In 2002, Pat was asked to join the creative team at **Storyeum**, an innovative new historical-theatrical tourist attraction in the heart of downtown Vancouver. Pat and her writing partner Michael Booth Palmer acted as historical/educational experts and script/production/casting consultants for Storyeum's inaugural season. They subsequently wrote and co-produced (with Shel Piercy of Infinity Films) the second season's original musical theatre show, *Land Beyond Today*, which opened in May 2005. In the creation of these shows, Pat was required to bring a variety of different historical narratives together with live performers, original music, complex sound and lighting cues, video footage and more...weaving it all into a 75-minute production that was both gripping and instructive.

A member of **Women in Film**, Pat has been involved in filmmaking since taking a screenwriting course with writer-director Christian Bruyere at UBC in 1984; in that same year she also worked on his made-for-TV film *Shelly*. She has also produced two music videos for Canadian singer-songwriter Michael Booth Palmer. In 1995 Pat's company, Black Moon Productions, produced a country music segment and music video for the **Variety Club Telethon's Show of Hearts** on Global. She was Assistant Director of Jan Padgett's educational film *The Reluctant Deckhand* (National Film Board, 1995), which won the Golden Sheaf Award for Best Children's Animation at the Yorkton Short Film and Video Festival in 1996, and remains a bestselling children's video to this day.

In her most significant film undertaking to date, Pat was Executive Producer of *Sara's Story* (2000), a documentary produced and directed by award-winning filmmaker Shel Piercy. *Sara's Story* documents a young woman's courageous three-year journey with cancer, and was broadcast on Global, Vision TV, W Network and Knowledge Network. Described as "truly inspiring" and "inclusive of the multiple experience cancer wreaks on families" (Maureen Levin, Vision TV), *Sara's Story* presented difficult material with passion and humour, making it accessible and relevant to a broad and varied audience.

Pat's current film project is a continuation of her work on *Sara's Story*. When Sara died in July 2000, she and Pat were working on a second documentary based on a roundtable hosted by Sara, in which six cancer patients/survivors between the ages of 19 and 29 candidly discussed the realities of being young and living with cancer. Six years later, Pat has turned the footage of this roundtable into *Chasing Rainbows: Young Adults Living With Cancer* - a 43-minute documentary, enhanced with original music and animation, that offers a powerful insider's perspective on the specific issues that young people face when they are dealing with a life-threatening illness. Other young adults living with cancer, as well as their friends and families, will find in *Chasing Rainbows* a rare and welcome source of information, hope and support - provided by six courageous young people who truly "get it." Pat is currently working on getting *Chasing Rainbows* on the air and into film festivals, libraries and medical educational facilities.

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(604) 228 - 9792 & blackmoonlady@shaw.ca